



MISSION

The Texas Master Naturalist program is a natural resource-based volunteer training and development program sponsored statewide by Texas AgriLife Extension and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The mission of the program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the state of Texas

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THE BEAR FACTS

Billy Hutson



Black Bear and Cubs

I was recently asked by several people what kind of bear it was that visited my cabin last month. My usual answer has been "A hungry one"!

But then I started to realize that many people aren't very savvy when it comes to bears. And since our bear population in Texas is only limited to a few recent black

bear stragglers from Mexico and Louisiana, we needn't be very concerned at all. There are none anymore in the hill country. The last one I am aware of was shot approximately 80 to 100 years ago on my ranch by a neighbor's grandfather when they trapped it in my canyon with dogs.

But for those of you that are curious I offer the following:

All North American bears are in the same family and in fact the same genus (Ursus). This includes the black, brown, grizzly, Kodiak and polar.

South of the Canadian/US border there are no Polar, Kodiak, or Brown bears. There are many black bears and a few grizzlies. The "Grizz", as the old trappers used to call them, -- (with respect)-- are mostly located in Yellowstone and upper parts of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

The Brown is coastal and the Grizz is inland, and the Kodiak is a brown



Grizzly Bear and Cubs

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bear that is only found on Kodiak island.

The species can be confusing so lets start with the easiest ones.

1-The Polar bear (*Ursus Maritimus*) even though they evolved from the Brown, have been noted as a separate species in that they don't hibernate and are mostly carnivorous (mostly hair seals) because of the lack of flora in their environment. They live in all the worlds northern Arctic areas such as Alaska, Canada, and all the arctic islands around the globe and they descended from the Brown. They adapted to their harsh environment terrifically by developing a thick waterproof fur, a thick coat of insulating blubber and a bleached outer coat.

All bears are omnivorous with varying carnivorous tendencies. The black bear mostly won't kill but the others normally will, especially the grizzly who has the worst reputation. After all, for the most part he doesn't have access to the salmon runs and had to rely on more dangerous game such as the Bison.

Then there is the black bear (*Ursus Americanus*) who came over on the Bering land bridge approximately 500,000 years ago. He is the smallest and eats mostly vegetation such as berries, nuts, roots, rodents he can dig up, grubs, and some fish when he can catch them. Oh, and did I mention dog food!

Now comes the hard part.

The Grizzly (*Ursus Arctos Horribilus*) and the Kodiak (*Ursus Arctos Middendorffi*) are the same species but different subspecies of the Brown (*Ursus Arctos*) which came over the Bering land bridge some 100,000 years ago into Alaska. By the way, many taxonomists disagree on this subdivision and the taxonomy remains in debate. The Brown lives on the North West coastal ways and gets a lot larger because of the abundance of available seafood, mostly highly nutritious salmon. The Grizz lives inland and is a very opportunistic diner.

The Kodiak is found only on the Kodiak Island archipelago and was isolated 10,000 to 12,000 years ago.

And by the way, all bears are plantigrades (walk on their soles).

They all can reach upwards of 1500# plus with the Black at up to 500#. The Polar is the tallest at 12 feet standing and the Kodiak is the heaviest with some up to 1800#.

I hope that you have BEARED with me during this discourse and have found it interesting.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY RIPARIAN AREA Sammye Childers



Photo from Streamside Management in the Hill Country

Characteristics of healthy riparian areas differ across the country and across the landscape but, despite local differences, all healthy riparian areas have certain similarities:

- Thick vegetative growth with a diversity of grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees covering stream banks, providing shade cover over the water. Perennial plants, trees, and shrubs will be represented in several stages of growth so when older vegetation dies it is quickly replaced by the younger vigorous growth. Annuals left to seed out and die to provide groundcover and continue the lifecycle. Tree trunks and other woody materials will fall into the water to provide important nutrients and habitats for aquatic organisms and wildlife. Fallen leaves and other organic matter will blanket the soil.
- Except through rocky cuts and during extended drought, land surrounding waterways will remain moist throughout most of the year.
- Banks that are not overly wide or overly deep. Vegetative roots, large wood (living and fallen) will protect and stabilize banks.
- Water will flow, however moderately, throughout the year in most perennial streams. There will be a high watertable and the ecosystem will have a high water storage capacity.

- Water will be relatively clear but will contain leaves, twigs, logs and fallen trees from the banks that create pools and wildlife habitat.
- The riparian area will contain a diversity of fish, aquatic life, mammals and birds living in and around the ecosystem.

An evaluation of health in a riparian area will begin with noting the natural or historical flow of the body of water. One must include the baseflow of water, the frequent flood levels, the extreme flood events, the seasonal variances in flow and the annual variability of flow. Note: baseflow is the minimum quantity of water needed in the channel to provide basic habitat needs for aquatic organisms and fish and to saturate surrounding soil to meet the needs of the riparian species.

Especially important plants in a riparian ecosystem are a variety of sedges, rushes, deeply rooted grasses, and deeply rooted trees and shrubs. The “sponge”, created by these plants and soil sediments deposited over time, help to augment flows during late summer and early fall by slowly releasing the water that has been stored in the soil. Ideally, the soil will be high in organic matter. Deeply rooted plants are necessary to hold the sponge in place.

It is well to remember that riparian areas do have

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fundamental commonalities but each will have its own individual attributes. Riparian areas can and do function differently. It is very hard to generalize, especially in a state as diverse as Texas, what the “ideal” riparian area will look like. As a result, most areas need to be evaluated against their own capability and potential. Even in similar riparian areas, human influence may have introduced elements that have changed the area’s capability and potential. Assessments, to be correct, must consider these factors and the uniqueness of each individual ecosystem. Important questions to ask are:

- Is there a diverse and complex plant community to support wildlife and to stabilize the banks and provide cool cover for the water?
- Are banks stable and how are the banks shaped? Is there excessive downcutting?
- Are there signs of excessive erosion?
- What is the water quality? Cool? Warm? Clear? Muddy? Cloudy?
- Is the stream flow adequate to support the diverse populations throughout the year?

Is the soil moist?

Are plant communities diverse enough to slow and disburse flood waters?

Is there a diverse and abundant insect population?

Is there evidence of abundant species of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish and other aquatic species?

Our understanding of the vital benefits that healthy riparian areas provide comes at a time when many of these areas have already been severely damaged or totally destroyed by the removal of vegetation, erosion and channelization (straightening of channels). Projections for the future show little sign of riparian destruction slowing. Hopefully, more people can be educated and made aware of the situation before it is too late. Society in general must recognize and understand the connectivity of all things and, that making even one change to any ecosystem will affect everything and everyone in some way. We all, in fact, do live, drink and play downstream.

Reviewed by Steve Nelle, NCRS Texas

WELCOMING CAROL ADAMS!

Congratulations to Carol Adams, former Interpretive Ranger at Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park. She has received the position of Park Specialist - Interpreter at Inks Lake State Park and will be joining the park staff in September! Carol came to Texas from New York State, where she worked at Lime Hollow Center for Environment & Culture. The last 3 years she has worked for TPWD, and her past experiences will make her an ideal individual to take over at the park. Carol already has lots of great ideas and is looking forward to working with the wonderful volunteers we have the benefit of.

Last Saturday, Carol and her husband Daniel came out to see us at Inks Lake, and experienced the Nobody’s Waterproof event. They enjoyed their first boat ride on the lake and have already fallen in love with the beautiful Hill Country. During their visit, Carol eagerly met members of the staff, park hosts and Friend’s group and is anxious to become a part of the “family”!

I hope to bring Carol to the October HLMN meeting to introduce her to you all!

Laurie Connally



FOUR HIGHLAND LAKES MASTER NATURALISTS ACHIEVE BOATER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

Laurie Connally

On July 30 nine attendees completed the Boater Education Instructor course and will receive their Instructor Certifications. Four of the nine were members of the Highland Lakes Master Naturalists group. This TPWD course is aimed at certifying instructors who will then teach the Boater Education Courses to anyone interested. Boater Education is mandatory in the State of Texas for youth ages 14 to 17, and it has been placed in front of the legislature for **all** folks operating a boat or personal water craft to pass this course.

As these Instructors begin their work in the Highland Lakes area, they hope to focus users not only on boating safety, but on ethics, common courtesy on the water, and to raise awareness of proper treatment for

our water ways. This will include a look at invasive water plants, as well as pollution issues. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all the folks boating on the waterways of the Highland Lakes used common sense and common courtesy when boating? Let's support these folks as they help to make this goal a reality!

Congratulations to Highland Lakes Master Naturalists Blair Feller, Ralph Herter, Stan Joy-Smith and Laurie Connally for their accomplishment. We wish them well in their future endeavors as Boater Ed Instructors!



Back L to R, Chris Nelson, FOIL, Blair Feller, HLMN, Stan Smith, HLMN, Austin Knappek, TPWD, Matthew Kennedy, Hilton Clark, Front L to R, Selverio Pacleb, Instr, Ralph Herter, HLMN, Phil Steffen, TPWD, Laurie Connally, TPWD/HLMN, Fernando Reyes, TPWD

2010 ROCKPORT HUMMERBIRD CELEBRATION

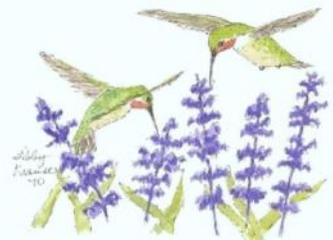
Sue Kersey

The Rockport Hummerbird Celebration is being held on September 16-19th this year. Mike and I have attended for several years and it is a wonderful way to celebrate the hummingbird migration and we have learned so much. They have speakers daily in the comfort of the auditorium, field trips by bus, photography classes, boat trips and wonderful shopping at the Hummerbird Malls (over 80 booths). But best of all the homeowners open their gardens for hummingbird viewing on the self-guided tour. Many homeowners have 20plus hummingbird feeders and beautiful gardens. Bob & Martha Sargent will be there banding hummingbirds and providing education also, they

are dear friends of ours for many years. Last Chance Forever will bring the raptors for indoor show on Friday evening and the birds will also be on display on Saturday morning.

Finding lodging may be a problem at this time, but I would encourage everyone to try. Mike & I are staying at The Lighthouse Inn. Rockport really know how to put on a great celebration.

For information go to www.rockporthummingbird.com or contact the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-242-0071 or tourism@rockport.org



KINGFISHERS

Sherrie Bixler



The Belted Kingfisher (our chapter mascot) is a common resident around the lakes, ponds and rivers of the hill country and is easily identified by his size (13 inches), his large head, crest and heavy bill. The similar Ringed Kingfisher is larger and not usually found north of the southern tip of Texas. Both the Belted and Ringed Kingfisher are unusual in that the female is more brightly colored than the male.

The third Kingfisher found in North America is the Green Kingfisher, a much smaller bird without a noticeable crest. It is sighted occasionally in our area but is much more common south of the hill country. There are three additional species of kingfisher in Central and South America but around the world there are 95 species plus 4 species of Kookaburras, which are in the same family. Kingfishers exhibit a very wide range of colors, some iridescent. The rattle call of most species marks their presence even before they are sighted.

Although Belted Kingfishers occasionally nest in tree cavities, they usually tunnel into banks and hollow out a nest cavity there. Most kingfishers do this: the tunnels are about three to six feet long. Belted

Kingfishers may tunnel deeper, up to 15 feet into the bank. Unfortunately, fire ants are occasionally responsible for nest failure, especially for the Green Kingfisher.

Because early observers never saw the kingfishers nesting, they believed the birds built raft-type nests on the ocean and nested only during the calmest days of summer. They gave the kingfisher the name halcyon (or alcyon) meaning calm. The phrase halcyon days refers to this peaceful period.

Male and female kingfishers alternate sitting on the eggs but once the eggs hatch, the female stays with them constantly for about three weeks, since the cooler environment within the tunnel means the baby birds must have her body warmth until their feathers grow. Thus the male bird must work triply hard to feed everyone until the babies can fish on their own. Although their main diet is fish, they do eat insects, crustaceans, reptiles, amphibians and mice.

Most articles about kingfishers state that the birds are quite solitary except during breeding season, but I have seen many pairs of kingfishers swooping and diving together in autumn.

TRAILS OPEN AT INKS DAM NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

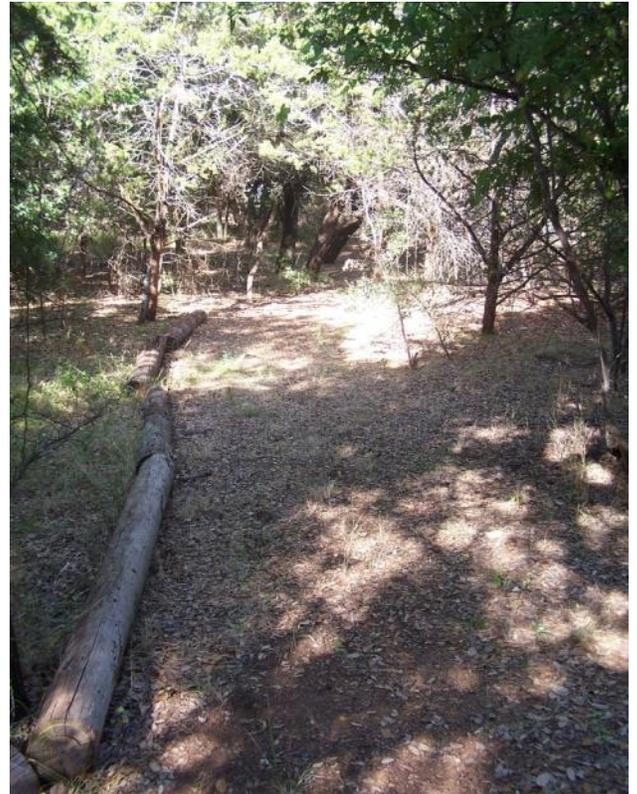
Cindy Fronk

I'm excited to announce that the Ashe Juniper Trail and the Overlook Trail are open at Inks Dam NFH. The Ashe Juniper Trail will showcase Texas Native plants and a wildlife habitat. This is the easiest trail of the two with a mulched path and gentle slopes. It is nestled in the woods, along the eastern arm of the creek. Seating is available in some spots to enjoy the shade while watching for wildlife.

The Overlook Trail is spectacular and our toughest trail to navigate....its for the experienced and fit hiker. The Overlook Trail gives you great views of the Hill Country, Inks Dam, the Colorado River, Camp Longhorn, Pack Saddle Mountain and some of the excellent examples of the diverse geological features of the Edwards Plateau uplift.

Trails are open to the public during the hours of 7:30am to 3pm.

Happy hiking!



A portion of the shaded Ashe Juniper Trail



Dam from the top of the Overlook Trail.

DENNY RANCH 2 SPOTLIGHT

Deborah Douglas, M.D.
Photos by Thomas Fisher, M.D.

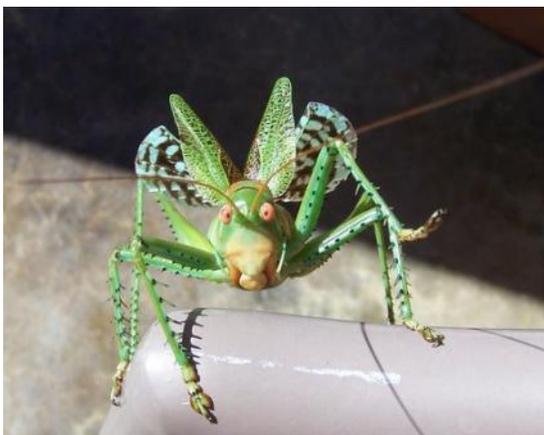
Two recent specimens of Order Orthoptera were seen at Denney Ranch 2. At left is a Spotted Bird Grasshopper (*Schistocerca emarginata* <also known as *S. lineata*>), which, according to some people, makes good fishbait. At right is a Greater Arid-land Katydid (*Neobarrettia spinosa*). Unlike Spotted Bird Grasshoppers, which are the most widely distributed species of *Schistocerca* in North America, Greater Arid-land Katydid are most commonly found in Texas. These UT-orange-eyed insects have a Texas attitude, too, which you may have learned the hard way, if you ever tried to shoo them away and got bitten.



A BIG ONE

Maggie Booth

This beautiful grasshopper is another *Neobarrettia spinosa*, a female. See the sword-like ovipositor, males don't have them. About 4". She would flare her wings when I touched her, and show her jaws. I believe she would draw blood if you grabbed her. Seen 7/25 on the Red-Tail Ranch.



CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAMS

Vern Turner , Billy Hutson

Vern Turner, a new member of the HLMN chapter, presented "The Principles of Evolution" as the featured speaker on August 4th's meeting. The highlights of the presentation included a brief history of the Earth, its geological time scale and the appearance of life forms for each period of time. Turner also presented a summary of current thinking on earliest molecular formation that gave rise to life on Earth.



Photo by Sue Kersey

He explained how population genetics, breeding patterns, biogeography and species adaptations are so necessary for survival in a constantly changing environment. The two current theories explaining the processes of evolution, Darwin-ism (aka gradualism) and Punctuated Equilibrium, were also discussed in appropriate detail. These theories and the continuing research into life on Earth pertain to our part of Texas as well as everywhere else. Our plants and animals that occur naturally are a direct result of their adaptations to central Texas today. In the past, Texas was a sea floor collecting organisms and their shells. A spirited question and answer period followed the presentation.

Next months program will be "Going Green on a Budget" by M. Gonzalez (yes with a Z). He is a speakers bureau representative from the PEC. Energy conservation in the home (various appliances) and Eco friendly tips for the budget conscious (auto,

food, cleaners) will be covered. The presentation will be short but will be followed with a tour of a GREEN HOME so we can apply and compare what we learned with an actual site.

The talk and the visit are very different in an attempt to cover the wide ranging subject of Energy conservation, ecological conservation and how they relate at different budget levels.

BURNET KIDS DAY OUT ON SEPT 11TH

Ray Buchanan

Photo by Sue Kersey

For both Toddlers and Teens it will be: "Free Trees!" – Smile, Smile, "Free Trees!" – Smile, Smile!, (and often: "The one you gave me last year is still alive and growing!").

For one of the most fun Highland Lakes Master Naturalist Volunteer Activities sign up for the Saturday, September 11th Kids Day Out event sponsored by the Burnet Fair and Rodeo Association at the Burnet Fairgrounds.

Last year we gave away over 300 trees (Desert Willows, Live Oaks, Crape Myrtles, etc.) provided by



Photo by Sue Kersey

the LCRA and TreeFolks of Austin. The kids get certificates of ownership along with information about trees and how to plant and care for them.

See announcements at the monthly meetings about who to contact to sign up. See you there!!

A NATURE STORY

Jerry Stacy

One evening about 9:30, I saw this Diamond-backed rattlesnake in my front yard, no more than six feet from my porch.

I'm glad I had a flashlight, because I was walking in a line to cross right over him. He was nice enough to wait for me to get the camera.

The next morning, as I was putting seed in my bird feeder, here he was again, still as a mouse, just over two feet from the feeder.



After adding the birdseed, I pulled my chair close to the front window to watch the show. It wasn't long before there were several birds on the feeder, on the fence, and hopping on the ground below the feeder. All of a sudden, in the blink of an eye, that coil exploded and a little birdie was doomed.

It was a female house sparrow, so no loss there. After a short time in the death grip, he spit the bird out and repositioned to get the bird going down head first.

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And then, down the hatch.
Gulp. Gulp.

Ahhh. All gone. After downing
the bird, he went right back to his
ambush position.

He was there until about 10:00
AM, but he didn't get a chance for
another meal.



Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

Welcoming You to the Outdoors

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) and Beyond BOW are programs designed to teach women outdoor skills.

These **national** programs provide women with information, encouragement and hands-on instruction in outdoor skills such as fishing, shooting, archery, hunting, trapping, outdoor photography, map and compass, survival, camping, canoeing and outdoor cooking. Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshops are designed primarily for women who have little or no experience with outdoor activities. These are three-day workshops that offer many different classes over the course of a weekend.



BOW and Beyond BOW workshops are open to anyone aged 18 and over - past participants have ranged in age from eighteen to the eighty!



Texas Parks and Wildlife supports the effort to promote women's events across the state, by joining with their partner organizations as well as Becoming an Outdoors-Woman, offering BOW events bi-annually. Information and materials are available approximately 4-5 weeks before the date of the workshop. The next scheduled workshop is November 5 – 7 at the beautiful Parrie Haynes Ranch. See the following website for more details and to register for this fun-filled opportunity! Sorry guys, ladies only!

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/bow/schedule.phtml>

Need more information? Talk to current HLMN members who have already “experienced” this wonderful program! I’m sure they have plenty of stories to share!

Linda Fleming

Fredi Franki

Billie Gunther

Helen Smith

Resources:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/bow/index.aspx>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/68.html>

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/bow/>

Hope to see many of you ladies in November!
Laurie Connally

What can I expect from a "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" workshop?

Workshops span a weekend, usually beginning on Friday around noon and lasting through Sunday noon. The weekend is divided into four sessions and you pick the classes in which you'd like to participate. Typically, 6-8 classes per session are offered.

2010 National Wildlife Refuge Week

BALCONES CANYONLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

invites you to participate in **FREE ACTIVITIES**
on Saturday, October 9 at Doeskin Ranch on RR 1174.



8:30 - 10:00 am
BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES FOR BEGINNERS - Casual walk.

*binoculars and identification books provided

8:30 - 10:30 am
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY - Digital & 35mm workshop. Bring your camera manual and camera.

**Pre-registration required. For adults only

9:00 - 10:30 am
WATER WONDERS WALK - Scoop up water creatures from a creek & a pond & compare. For adults & kids!

9:00 - 11:00 am
USEFUL NATIVE PLANTS WALK - Casual walk.

9:00 am - 2:30 pm
DISCOVERING REFUGE DIVERSITY - Hike & learn about native plants and animals. A 4.5 mile hike of moderate difficulty through diverse terrain & habitats - 5.5 hours with 3 breaks.

BRING LUNCH & PLENTY OF WATER

9:30 - 11:00 am
BIRDING BY EAR WALK - Listen to the Mockingbird - the cardinal, wren & chickadee. Come learn the common bird songs and calls. You'll be able to recognize most of what you hear from now on!

11:00 am - 12:15 pm & 2:30 - 3:45pm
SPIDER WALK - Come share amazing facts about spiders with "Spider Joe" Lapp!

**Pre-registration required.

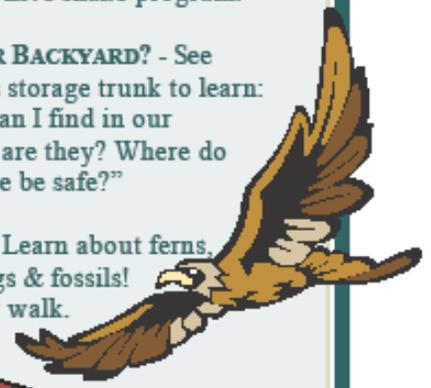


11:00 am - 12:15 pm & 2:30 - 4:00 pm
WALKING STICK WALK - Look for Walking sticks, spittlebugs, leaf miners, etc... & catch bugs!

12:15 - 1:00 pm
SNAKES ALIVE! - Live snake program.

1:15 - 2:00 pm
WHAT'S IN YOUR BACKYARD? - See what's in Mark's storage trunk to learn: "What animals can I find in our backyard? What are they? Where do they live? Can we be safe?"

2:15 - 3:45 pm
NATURE WALK - Learn about ferns, flowers, fire, frogs & fossils! A relatively easy walk.



Come & Go as You Please:

10:00 am - 4:00 pm
CREATURES FROM THE WATER
- View bizarre water creatures.

12:00 - 2:00 pm
PLANT ID WORKSHOP/LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS
- Have a plant that you're curious about? Bring us a sample or photo & we'll help you identify it! Be sure to show as much of the plant as possible & collect only where you have permission (roadside rights-of-way, your backyard, etc...). Also, learn the benefits of landscaping with native plants.



For more info call Rob Iski at 512-339-9432 x 70
Groups: Please call in advance to register.
Times & Activities subject to change

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS CALENDAR

Mike Childers

AUGUST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES		SEPTEMBER EVENTS (cont'd)	
Canoeing Skills/Tours Inks Lake State Park	Call Office 512-793-2223	Regina's Regatta-Rowing for a cure "Poker Row" Inks Lake State Park (location TBD)	25th
Texas Wildlife Short Course Brazos County Exposition Center, Bryan, TX	20th-21st	South Central TX Water Conservation Conf. Brenham, TX	25th
Stumpy Hollow Hike Inks Lake State Park	21st 09:30-10:30	FUTURE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	
Twilight Paddle (Adults only) Inks Lake State Park	27th 7:30-9:30pm	Refuge Week Festival Balcones Canyonlands	Oct. 9th 8:30-4:30
Fishing with a Ranger Inks Lake State Park	28th 8:30-10:00	The Rainwater Revival Dripping Springs, TX	Oct. 9th
Full Moon Hike and Owl Prowl Inks Lake State Park	28th 8-9pm	Annual Appreciation Luncheon Inks Lake State Park (location TBD)	Nov. 18
SEPTEMBER EVENTS		National Public Lands Day Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery	Sept. 25th 8:00 - Noon
Native U Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center	Various class dates	FUTURE EVENTS	
HLMN Chapter Meeting TBD	1st	NPSOT Symposium 2010 - 30th Anniversary Denton, TX (www.npsot.org/symposium2010)	Oct. 7th-10th
NPSOT Wildscapes Workshop United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg, TX	11th	Highland Lakes Native Plant Garden Tour Marble Falls, TX	Oct. 16th
Kid's Day Out (Vol Opps-(MN, TPWD, IDNFH) Bunet County Fairgrounds	11th	Davis Mountains Field Trip Fort Davis, TX	Oct. 17th-20th
10th Annual Texas Plant Conference Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center	15th-17th	Master Naturalist State Meeting T Bar Ranch, New Braunfels, TX	Oct. 22nd-24th
How Wildlife Interacts in the Garden/Wildscape NPSOT Meeting, Marble Falls Library	18th	Becoming an Outdoor Woman Perrie Haynes Ranch, Killeen, TX	Nov. 5th-7th
Instructor's Week TPWD Parrie Haynes	21st-24th		

There are two great opportunities to get volunteer hours in September. Help at Regina's Regatta and at Kid's Day Out. These are opportunities with Master Naturalists, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Inks Dam National Hatchery. More information is available on the Yahoo Groups Site. Also even more info will be made available in the future.

Stewardship

An ethic that embodies cooperative planning and management of environmental resources with organizations, communities and others to actively engage in the prevention of loss of habitat and facilitate its recovery in the interest of long-term sustainability

Please submit pictures, articles, reports, stories, calendar and event entries, etc. to chili865@gmail.com. Photos should have captions and appropriate credits. The deadline for submissions to each month's newsletter is the 10th of the month and publication will be by the 15th.