

# The Steward

Fall 2018

Highland Lakes Master Naturalists

Volume 9 Issue 3

## HLMN Happenings

### Kid's Day Out

By Phil Wyde Photos Credits: Phil Wyde

The 2018 Kids Day Out Event was held inside, in the Burnet YMCA Gym because of the rain. We had 255 kids and adults visit our "Plant a Tree" station and there were many happy faces seen there. We only had a few trees left at the end of the event. The photos only show the morning crew, however, it should be noted that the afternoon contingent was equally adept.



Morning Crew - Alice, Mark, Terry, Jean, Pat, and Nadine



Celia with Let's go fishing sign

Pat (Campbell) deserves lots of applause for her organizing our station and presentation. Back Bone Nursery also deserves much recognition. They supplied the trees (Mexican Buckeye, Mexican Plum and Lacy Oak) and soil. We did not realize until hours into the event that we were giving the Mexican Buckeye trees out as Soap Wood Trees. Some people are going to be surprised, some day, when their Buckeye tree blooms and then produce their "fruit."

There were very many fun things for the kids to do there today (e.g., rock climbing, archery, catfish fishing, kayaking, bounce houses). To my surprise, with all this going on, we were still very popular and in demand.

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And how long has HLMN Chapter been involved with Kid's Day Out? Longtime!



2006 (above) and 2010 (below)



2013 (above) Photos by Sue Kersey

## Blanco Wildlife Viewing Station !!

Thanks to our  
**Awesome Volunteers**

Steve Scheffe  
Doug Fletcher  
George Brugnoli  
Jerry Stacy  
Stephen Harrell  
Gary Hampton  
Gary January  
Jim & Karen Lundquist  
Wayne Holly  
Cris Faught  
Jack Twilley  
Ken Morgan  
Dave Lageman



If You're Inspired to Visit Blanco State Park  
Then You'll Truly be Inspired to Become a Friend of Blanco State Park  
*Make a donation and/or volunteer  
for one of our events.*  
Park Office: 830-833-4333

## Martelle's Message:

So let's talk new projects.

Did you know that a new project can be any size? Have you seen a space of land or soil or habitat that could be soooo much better with a Master Naturalists' touch.? Perhaps a Butterfly Garden/Habitat similar to the one Vicki Adcock has started in Horseshoe Bay, or the Outdoor Classroom Spicewood Elementary received a grant for?

Have you walked by your local library and thought "Wow, that space would be awesome with a little tender loving Master Naturalists' touch."

Take a picture, gather a couple, several, lots of friends to help. Type up a quick proposal and submit it to the Board and let's continue to change our Highland Lakes Area one section at a time.

Discovery Trunks are another way to spread our love of nature to the community. The subject can be your passion. What are some of the subjects that you love most? This is a wonderful opportunity for you to share your passion with MANY!! Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or would like advice on direction Yes, putting your trunks together does count as VMS.

As y'all have surmised I love bones. I think it is the coolest thing. (I'm very thankful that my teens aren't squeamish, well too much.) As my own personal project I have been working on a Twister type and size game to teach children about the relationship of bones and skins to species in our area. **THANK Y'ALL VERY MUCH FOR ALL THE BONES THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME!!** From rattlesnake skeleton to pelican leg!! Woo Hoo!! Please keep them coming. You never can have too many bones, even if my kids disagree.

In conclusion, **I cannot begin to tell y'all how excited I am to be a part of such a wonderful group of people!!**

## Fall Wildflowers

By Ella Tyler

The hour-long drive from Marble Falls to the east side of Austin passes through three of the ten ecological regions of Texas - Edwards Plateau, Cross Timbers and Prairies, and Blackland Prairies. If you count the Llano Uplift, which sits in the middle of the Edwards Plateau, there are four. This means that a short trip provides a lot of interesting plant material to look at, especially in the fall, when seed heads, fruit, and colorful leaves make up for a waning wildflower count.

Purple has been catching my eye on my recent excursions. Narrow spikes of purple, about a foot tall, belong to Texas Gay-Feather, also known as Texas Blazing Star, or formally as *Liatris mucronata*. It blooms from August to October. There are no branches and it has narrow leaves that are only three inches long. If it weren't for the color, it could go unnoticed.

*Liatris* is popular in the floral trade because of its shape and because it flowers bloom from the top down. I'm also really enamored by the beautiful deep rosy purple color of prickly pear fruits. I've had fantasies about making jelly from the juice, just for the color, but by the time I get organized to do it the fruits are gone. If the fruit

is truly ripe, it will be easy to pick. Use tongs or heavy gloves, and beware of the tiny spines on the fruit.

Beauty Berry, *Callicarpa americana*, has shiny, almost iridescent purple berries that are maturing now. The berries cluster at each leaf axle. It prefers moisture, so it is not often seen in the wild this far west, but it is justifiably very popular in native plant gardens.

Our recent rains have sent Cenizo in frenzies of bloom. Two species, *Leucophyllum candidum*, known

as violet silverleaf, and *L. frutescens*, or Texas sage, can be seen in the area. Silverleaf is short, not more than three feet tall, and blooms only in the fall — when it rains. The other is much taller and blooms most of the year — when it rains. These species are different shades of purple and look very pretty together. There are a lot of different cultivars of Cenizo available in nurseries with variations in leaf and flower color.



The Chick-fil-A in Marble Falls has a hedge of white flowered ones.

Purple isn't the only color that is catching my eye. I have recently begun to see a yellow-flowered low shrub that is an absolutely beautiful color. Creamy gold is the best description I have. Unfortunately, I never see it except in the middle of a field, so I can't examine it closely enough to determine if it's *Senna lindheimeriana* or *S. roemeriana*. However, according to the Wildflower Center native plants data base, the first species blooms from August to

October, and the other species begins to bloom in May. So, since I just began to notice this plant, I have decided that this plant is Lindheimer's Senna. It is named for Ferdinand Jacob (1801-1879), the first permanent-resident plant collector in Texas. He immigrated to the United States as a political refugee. He settled in New Braunfels, in 1844. He shared his findings with many people who were interested in botany, Ferdinand von Roemer, for whom the other senna is named. I'm also very fond of Maximilian Sunflower, which is just beginning to bloom. It has clusters of about 15 flowers that grow along the whole plant. And the leaves of Cedar Elm look like little gold flakes as they fall.

I used **Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country by Marshall Enquist (1987)** and the Lady Bird Johnson Wild Flower Center's web site, <https://www.wildflower.org/>, for help with plant identification.

## Meet the Members:



### **Charles Beierle Class of 2011**

**Where were you raised?**

I was raised in St Joseph, Missouri & have lived in Indiana, California & Texas.

**What is your professional background?**

I was trained & worked for 30+ years as a Geologist, Geodesist and Geophysicist.

**Tell us about your nature-related passion or volunteer activity.**

My passion is the unique Geology & Geophysics of the Texas Hill Country-- I was recruited in 2011 by the Childers to help enhance the Earth Science training in HLMN. Hill Country Geology is a unique educational resource -- with the oldest outcrops in Texas!



### **Mike Riley Class of 2016**

**Where were you raised?** Illinois and Arkansas as a child

**What is your professional background?** Computer software consulting and sales at IBM.

**Tell us about your nature-related passion or volunteer activity.**

My passions:

1. To conserve water and keep our water supply as clean as possible through the use of native plants in our home landscapes. I promote native plants use because they need less water, fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides resulting in lower cost in the long run and limited poison runoff into the Colorado river. Much of this work is through the Native Plant Society of Texas.

2. I test water monthly on Lake LBJ and Lake Marble Falls as a Lower Colorado River Authority, Water Quality Protection volunteer

## Martelle Luedecke Class of 2016



### Where were you raised?

I was born and raised in Austin, TX. We happily transplanted to Burnet County 4 1/2 yrs. ago.

### What is your professional background?

For starters I didn't graduate from college in my youngers years. I became a certified chef and worked in the food industry for 20+ years. As a single parent I attended ACC and then Texas State. Graduating in 12/2014 with a BS in Biology and Psychology. My present day job is wildlife management and Girl Friday. I work outside.

I have always carried a camera, even as a child. We began Luedecke Photography while we still lived in Austin. Once we moved out here, we began building our Photography business. Enjoying every minute.

### Tell us about your nature-related passion or volunteer activity.

I love bones,. It is fun to watch the "WOW" expression on a kids face when you hand them a magnifying glass and they see the inside of a deer or coyote skull nasal cavity. I love microscopes. The different perspective of nature that it offers children. This is one of the many reasons that I LOVE volunteering at Candlelight Ranch. From the Zip lines with a Bird's eye view, to magnifying glasses and scopes. Children can view and enjoy all perspectives of nature. And oh the questions they ask. Now of course, the fishing, tree house, horses, hiking ... are an added benefit!!

## Experianz

## Travel guide **FOR** Master Naturalists **FROM** Master Naturalists



Beautiful scenery! This is Durnstein, Germany.

## Experianz (cont'd)

**Who:** Robin England

**What:** Danube River Cruise

**Where:** Budapest, Danube and Vienna

**When:** this summer

**Thumbs up!**

**Comments:** Here are some photos from my "road trip" this summer.

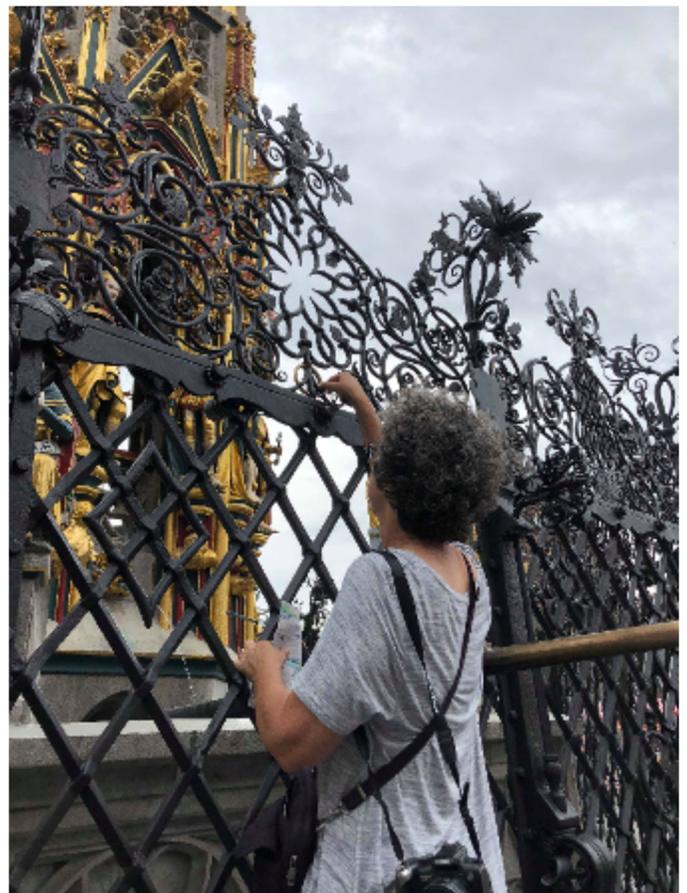
I took my daughter on a Danube River Cruise to celebrate her graduation from university and also my new career as a Travel Advisor! We visited Budapest for a couple of days pre-cruise, cruised the Danube for 7 days, then spent 3 days in Vienna before returning home. Amazing sites!

Overlooking Passau, Germany. The Inn River meets the Danube (crossed by the bridge) - you can see the color differences in the two rivers. Silt in the Inn causes the milky color.

Just one of the many stunning churches we visited.



Spinning the brass ring on the Beautiful Fountain in Nuremberg, Germany. This means I have to return some day!!



## Experianz (cont'd)

**Who:** Becky Breazeale

**What:** Royal Gorge, Town of Cripple Creek

**Where:** Cripple Creek Colorado

**When:** July 24th

### Thumbs up!

My husband, daughter and I went to Colorado to escape the heat like many Texans do. We started our adventure in Cripple Creek, elevation 9,747. The temperature was high of 79 and low 49. When we pulled up to the Carr Manor there was a donkey standing in the middle of the road. We later found out there was a pack of donkeys that moved about the city and residents left out water for them. The Carr Manor in Cripple Creek was formerly the Cripple Creek High School. My daughter stayed in the Principal's Office and we stayed in the Carr Suite. There were chalkboards in every room and remnants of the old high school like water fountains, group bathrooms and photos of the old high school days. Cripple Creek was once a major mining town and we rode The Cripple Creek



My daughter, Amy feeding the donkeys at the new High School. It was specially made Donkey food.



Balanced Rock at Garden of the Gods



Cripple Creek Narrow Gauge Train

## Experianz (cont'd)

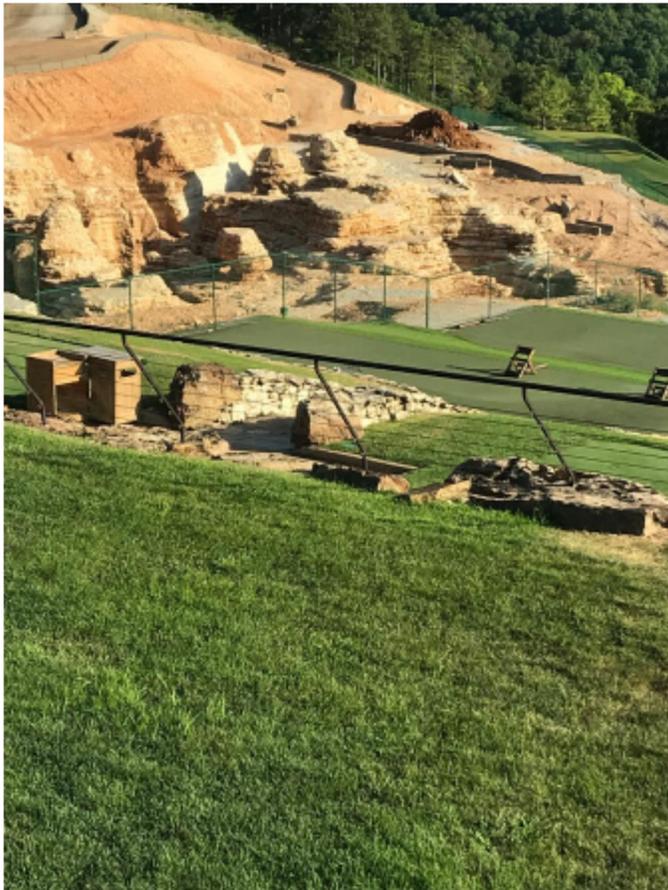
Narrow Gauge Railroad to see the old gold mines. We took a hike at the Garden of the Gods, near Colorado Springs and on a day trip to the Royal Gorge where we rode a gondola across the Gorge. Oh yeah, we also saw the amazing Astros beat the Rockies in their open air stadium.

**Who:** Pat Campbell

**Where:** Branson, MO

**When:** Mid June

Great place to go, especially for families. I went with friends and it was still fun. and yes, We rode the Ducks, actually a month to the day before one sunk. (Don't think I will do that again, although it was fun at the time). Cabella's has made a beautiful resort area with a great restaurant and facility for viewing the sunset over the lakes. The rock work is incredible. They have a ceremony at sunset which includes firing a civil war cannon. Startled



me so much I dropped my iPhone and cracked the screen and needless to say did not get the picture. There is also a new nature preserve called dogwood that is beautiful.



## Experianz (cont'd)

**Who:** Betty Cruikshank

**Where:** Baltic Cruise –Copenhagen, St. Petersburg, Tallin, Stockholm, Helsinki

**When:** May 26—June 10



Editor's Note: Betty wins the award for most traveled High-land Lakes Master Naturalist



**Experianz** (cont'd)

**Who:** Betty Cruikshank

**Where:** Hudson River Valley

**When:** August 21-25

