

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter



Lindheimera texana
Texas Star

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T E X A S



Hill Country Chapter

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October 2009
Volume 7, No. 10

OCTOBER MEETING Western Rivers Project

Our speaker will be Rebecca Flack from The Nature Conservancy of Texas. She is Director of the Western Rivers of the Edwards Plateau Project.

The Western Rivers Project offers assistance to land-owners through public and private partnerships for conserving life-giving waters and biologically rich lands in a six-county area.

The area includes portions of the



Sabinal, Frio, and Nueces rivers – each significant for essential surface water and major recharge contribution to the Edwards Aquifer and its associated springs.

Ms. Flack will discuss the project's history, focus and approach, and operations.

Join us at 7:00 p.m.,
Monday, October 26 at

Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE John Huecksteadt

Bad Year for Blackjacks

Our black Labrador Retriever, Jack, registered as "Blackjack Wright," had a bad summer. He lost his good buddy, Austin, our 13-year-old yellow Lab. Months afterwards, Jack is still looking around the house for his skunk-taunting, deer-pestering pal. It is sad to watch.

It has been a bad year for our Blackjack oak trees, too. The drought and the winds have left us sadly watching our land change, for what we feel is the worse.

Through the course of last year's part of the drought our Blackjacks seemed stoically unaffected. In fact, last year, when everything was already horribly dry, it was one of our Post Oaks that lost a very large limb in a windstorm. I deduced that the dry wood did not have the resilience it would have had with higher moisture content. It cracked, like a dry twig underfoot, in a storm which contained, ironically, no rain. The Blackjacks seemed to do

just fine. They looked as happy and healthy as ever.

Our part of the Hill Country received over six inches of rain for the ten days starting September 3, 2009. It was after the sun finally came out (recall how gloomy it was for a while) that Jack and I ventured out into the soaked fields to see what was growing after all the rain. The grasses were responding wonderfully (especially in the two acres my neighbor set alight in the spring). A few forbs had decided to outrun the white-tail and fling out some quick inflorescence. Jack and I were becoming upbeat as we strolled along.

It was while standing next to the proudest of all our Blackjacks that I got a sense of something amiss. Out of the corner of my eye I sensed a huge amount of vegetation on the ground where not long before I know I had cleared the Ashe juniper. My mind took several crazy moments to adjust to the reality. A full third of

continued page 2

THIS MONTH WE HONOR

<u>Milestones</u>	<u>2009 Recertification</u>	<u>Special First Year Recertification</u>	<u>Initial Certification</u>
<i>Brushed Silver</i> 500 hours	<i>Salamander</i>	<i>Salamander</i>	<i>Dragonfly</i>
Bob McKinley	Sherry Egloff	Alexis McRoberts	Rhoda Reynolds
<i>Bronze 250 hours</i>	Lloyd Hemmert		Harriet Warren
Stephen Dodge	William Lange		
	Rebecca Shupp		

© kwd

In rivers, the water that you touch is the last of what has passed and the first of that which comes; so with present time.

Leonardo da Vinci

Do you know?

The Nature Conservancy owns 35 Texas nature preserves and conservation properties and assists private landowners to conserve their land through more than 100 voluntary land-preservation agreements. 750,000 acres in Texas have been protected with public and private partners.

Bad Year for Blackjacks, continued.

my favorite Blackjack was lying on the ground, having cleanly split down the entire length of the huge trunk. The rains had not come soon enough



to allow the wood to rehydrate, so when the winds blew they took their oaky toll.

Just last week, while Jack and I and our newly-adopted black Lab, Barkley, were out surveying the land as usual, it happened again. That same

weird feeling of "something is wrong with this picture" came over me. I was standing in front of another Blackjack tragedy. This oldster's two-



foot trunk snapped cleanly off not five feet above the ground.

Lots of thoughts will flood our minds in front of our Blackjack-fed fireplace this winter. It will be sad to watch.

ADVANCED TRAININGYour chance to learn more

➤ Wild Turkeys in the Hill Country AT 09-100

Tuesday, October 13, 7 p.m., Gillespie Country Extension AgriLife Building, Free
Presenter: Mike Krueger, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist from Kerrville
An overview of the three sub-species of Wild Turkey in Texas including a historical perspective of the changes in their population sizes over time. Habitat needs and habitat management practices will be discussed.
This presentation is sponsored by the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center as part of their monthly Nature Series programs.

➤ Grass Identification AT 09-095

Wednesday, October 28, 1p.m.-3p.m., Texas Lions Camp
Presenter: Jim Stanley, Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
The Grass ID class will be given again this fall after the 2009 class meeting. Learn about growth habits and how to identify our native grasses. Grass samples will be displayed.

➤ Nature Photography Workshop AT 09-074

Saturday, November 14, 9a.m.-6:15p.m., RNC and Block Creek Natural Area,
RNC members \$135/non-members \$150.
Presenter: David K. Langford, professional photographer
Learn how to transform what you see in the camera lens into a personal artistic vision. Space is limited. Registration required. www.riversidenaturecenter.org or 830-257-4837.

Chapter Shirt Sale Fundraiser

This year we have another great selection of merchandise with the Hill Country Chapter logo.

This is a great way to get Hill Country Master Naturalist logo wear and help the chapter raise funds.



We have new shirt styles and colors, along with hats and bags.



Email [Gracie Waggener](mailto:Gracie.Waggener) to receive an order form.

Order yours today!



Check out the selection



Support the chapter, get a great-looking shirt, and go out and look like the trained Master Naturalist you are!

Dr. Floyd Waller will present "A Survey of Common Texas Grasses" during the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas' monthly meeting. The meeting will be held Tuesday, November 3 at 2 p.m. at Riverside Nature Center.



FOUR COUNTY FACTS

BANDERA

Current
Hill Country Chapter
members

26

GILLESPIE

Current
Hill Country Chapter
members

37

KENDALL

Current
Hill Country Chapter
members

29

KERR

Current
Hill Country Chapter
members

71

6 additional members in
surrounding counties

My responsibilities as Director of Communications fall into two general areas: internal communications and external communications.

“Internal” communications includes any means of communicating with our members – primarily our web site and our monthly newsletter. As Director of Communications, I can recruit help in these areas as needed, and I’m lucky to have someone as talented as Kristie Denbow putting our excellent newsletter together each month. We also have members in the four counties (Leanne Beauxbeannes in Bandera County, Karen Millikan in Kerr County, Sharon Rodriquez in Gillespie County, and Kristie Denbow in Kendall County) who see to it that area libraries and nature centers have a supply of our current newsletter each month. These four also help with distributing brochures in the four counties during our application period.

The position of webmaster also comes under the auspices of the Communications Director, and I have that role. Each month I post the information for that month’s chapter meeting to the site. I also highlight new projects and special advanced training events so that members can keep up easily with the opportunities available to them. In the Member Area of the site, I maintain current copies of our member list, board meeting notes, treasurer reports, AT opportunities and codes, and volunteer projects and codes. I also maintain our Chapter Operating Handbook, Bylaws, and other Chapter Documents in the Member Area of the web site.

Another position which falls under the internal communications umbrella is a less visible, but important job: our archivist, Susan Longacre. Susan keeps track of our chapter’s history, making sure that we have copies of all our annual reports, board meeting notes, class materials, elections, awards, newspaper clippings, and any other bits and pieces that make up our chapter’s story since its infancy in 2001.

“External” communications covers communicating with the media and other organizations to spread the word about our monthly programs which are open to the public. Bringing people in to our monthly meetings to hear our speakers and meet our members is one of the primary ways of attracting new members to our chapter. Once I get the information from our VP and program director, Jim Gardner, I forward the details on to newspapers in our four-county area in the form of a press release.

In the spring, I work with the membership director and new class director to put together a brochure announcing the fall class and application period. As publicity manager, I also send the details to local newspapers as a press release. Many of our trainees come to us because they read about our program in their local papers.

Both the internal and external aspects of the Communications position are important to keeping our organization viable, informed, and visible to the public, and I’m glad to have had the opportunity to contribute to this effort.

Phyllis Muska



Priscilla opened the back door and said, "You want to see my snake?" Grabbing my camera, as I usually do whenever she says something like that, I followed her outside expecting her to lead me to where she had once again found our resident five feet long western coachwhip. Instead, as soon as I stepped outside she showed me the prettiest little baby eastern blackneck garter snake she held in her palm. It was at most nine inches long, no more than a quarter of an inch in diameter, and marked in the brightest yellow, orange, and black.



I took pictures and Priscilla let it go where she had found it - under the blackjack tree. A short while later she reported she had found it, or another one like it, on the other side of the garage in one of the many nursery pots she tends. I went to look and soon saw a second and then a third, all within a foot or two of each other. These were obviously newborns. Blackneck garter snakes are listed as live-bearers.

My mind immediately went back to a little over two years ago when I found two eastern blackneck garter snakes mating in

the RV barn and earlier this year I had seen the male (or one similar...males are much smaller than females) in nearly the exact place in the barn.

Also, seeing the three brightly colored little guys in one place made me think about the resident coachwhip and worry about the newborns' safety. None of the three fence lizards (small, medium, and large) that we saw so often in the spring seem to be around anymore. We suspected the coachwhip had something to do with their disappearances. Most recently, the coachwhip was spotted in the blackjack being scolded by a pair of cardinals. Two of their three fledglings had flown into the tree.

Reflecting on this activity, I began to think about the native critters we see on a regular, almost daily basis within the confines of our "yard."

We regularly see a dozen species of birds. Hummingbirds, wrens, chickadees, titmice, cardinals, flycatchers, and even a turkey nest in the yard. Fox squirrels are seen daily and sometimes a rock squirrel. In addition to the creatures mentioned, we have skinks everywhere, a few gulf coast toads, an incredibly tame cottontail, and raccoons stop by most evenings. Skunks and opossums visit fairly frequently and are occasionally accompanied by armadillos, porcupines, and grey foxes. There is not enough space to begin listing the colorful and interesting insects or the less common birds that make a stop in our yard.

So, I asked myself these questions, "Is this the normal concentration of wildlife in the Hill Country? Are there as many critters on any acre outside our one-acre fence?"

The answer to the second question is definitely, "No." We are surrounded by 3,000 acres of poorly managed, overgrazed, over-browsed, cedar-infested ranchland with about 250 houses sprinkled on it. I am pretty sure the answer to the first question is also, "No." I think Priscilla and I are living in a wildlife oasis. And that is exactly what we wanted it to be.

Eight years ago before we finished our house, we installed a seven feet high fence around about an acre. A good number of live oaks, post oaks, blackjack oaks, cedars, a mixture of overgrazed grasses, and a few prickly pears were inside - nothing else. After fencing the area we began to see all sorts of changes. Dozens of flame-leaf sumacs, escarpment black cherries, live oaks, post oaks, blackjack oaks, and hackberry trees sprouted all over, as well as possumhaws, greenbriers, grapes, and Virginia creepers. The post oaks and blackjacks have grown their outer limbs down to the ground as the browse line vanished.

We hung two squirrel and raccoon resistant bird feeders filled with sunflower seeds, a thistle feeder for finches, and another feeder with sunflower seeds that the squirrels can get to with some effort and the raccoons can empty if they are desperate. In the spring and summer, we endeavored to keep three hummingbird feeders filled with nectar. A few years ago we added a 15 feet long re-circulating stream to our collection of bird baths. The stream is used by every kind of critter.

If all we had done was the above, we would not have near the amount wildlife that we have now. What we have accomplished, well, mainly what Priscilla has accomplished, is providing habitat that is missing from outside our fence. Our yard is a diverse collection of primarily native vegetation from ground level to tree height. We have about 4,000 square feet of raised beds filled with blooming perennials, over 50 different shrubs and small trees, and large areas of unmowed native grasses.



Our garden could never be considered a formal garden; it would not appear in any magazine layouts. Most of the native grass is unmowed, there are no formal paths, in the winter flower seed heads are left for the birds, and you must duck under trees to get from here to there. We do not spray for insects outdoors and we do not have dogs or cats to chase or kill wildlife. Our goal has been to have as much vegetative diversity of genre, species, size, and age as possible and to rarely interfere with natural processes.

I think our collection of wildlife proves this system works and in this time and place, it truly makes our small yard a wildlife oasis - and that makes our lives richer and more interesting.





Eastern Blackneck Garter Snake (*Thamnophis cyrtopsis ocellatus*) is a nonvenomous native that prefers moist, wooded ravines and stream-side bottomlands. They eat animals found in and around water including frogs, toads, skinks, and small fish. Its name comes from the curved black blotch found behind its jaw.

<http://www.southwesternherp.com/articles/observationsonblackneckgartersnakes.html>

You can make a difference for Riverside Nature Center!

It's easy! Just make a donation by December 1 and a generous benefactor will match the amount!

Wow!

What a way to double your investment in nature and education.

Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos St
Kerrville, Tx 78028



Working for Tomorrow's Wildlife ... Today!

★ **Join Our Newest
Volunteer Project**

TWA L.A.N.D.S. Project ID: CC-12-A

The Texas Wildlife Association's youth program, Learning Across New Dimensions in Science (L.A.N.D.S.) works with students K – 12 and teaches subjects such as land ethics, conservation, wildlife and land management, ecosystems, soils, plants, and how to be good land stewards on private lands.

Hands-on learning helps students retain more information. L.A.N.D.S. curriculum is full of in-class and outdoor activities, including field trips. With nature at the center of our educational focus, TWA is creating a legacy of conservation in generations of Texans.

Volunteers are needed at every level and will be trained before assisting with a program.

Contact chapter Project Coordinator Koy Coffer at kcoffer@texas-wildlife.org or call 830-792-3070 (office)/ 512-496-1678 (cell).

Koy is a professional nature educator and member of our Class of 2009.

First volunteer opportunity is Tuesday, October 20 at Kerr WMA. Koy needs 6-8 volunteers to help with the L.A.N.D.S. field trip for Ingram 7th graders.

From Charles Smith

Poking Around

I wish to speak a word for the art of poking around. Although the art can be practiced in libraries and antique stores and peoples' psyches, the kind of poking around I am interested in advocating must be done outdoors.



It is a matter of going into the land to pay close attention, to pry at things with the toe of a boot, to turn over rocks at the edge of a stream and lift boards to look for snakes or the nests of silky deer mice, to kneel close to search out the tiny bones mixed with fur in an animal's scat, to poke a cattail down a gopher hole.



People who poke around have seeds in their socks and rocks in their pockets. They measure things with the span of their hands. They look into the sun when they see a shadow pass across a field. They spit in rivers to make fish rise. When no one is looking, they may even rub their lips where beavers have chewed, just to get a sense of it. Often they stand still for a long time, listening and then they follow the sound, sneaky as a heron, until they are close enough to see a chickadee knocking on wood like a tiny woodpecker.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

Poking around is more capricious than studying, but more intense than strolling. It's less systematic than watching but more closely focused. Unlike hiking, it has no destination.

Poking around is a guaranteed way to learn. Ideas, after all, start with sense impressions and all learning comes from making connections among observations and ideas. Insight is born of analogy.



Everything interesting is complicated. Since truth is in the details, seekers of the truth should look for it there.

Poking Around is excerpted from Kathleen Dean Moore's essay *Winter Creek*, in *Riverwalking: Reflections on Moving Water* (Harcourt Brace, 1995). © 1995 by Kathleen Dean Moore.

From Ward Miller

Believe It Or Not



Question: Can crickets really tell you the temperature outside?

Male crickets "chirp" for multiple reasons including warning off predators and attracting female mates. But the sound of the actual chirp is due to a hard rigid structure on one of the wings. When rubbed together with the other wing, this is the distinctive chirp you hear at night.



But can crickets really indicate outside temperatures?

Answer:

Yes! Anyone outside at night listening to crickets "sing" can determine the outside temperature with a small math equation.

First, count the number of chirps a cricket makes in 15 seconds. Record this number or remember it.

Next, add 37 to the number you wrote down.

That's it! You now have a good estimate of the outside temperature in Fahrenheit!



The idea was first studied by A. E. Dolbear in 1898. He systematically studied various species of crickets to determine their "chirp rate" based on temperatures. Using T for temperature in degrees Fahrenheit and N for number of chirps, Dolbear published his results in the form of an equation - $T=50+[(N-40)/4]$ This equation for cricket chirping is now known as Dolbear's Law.

by Rachele Oblack of About.com



© John Ingram

The 150th Anniversary of Osbert Salvin's discovery of the Golden-cheeked Warbler

November 4, 2009

On November 4, 1859, Osbert Salvin was riding up and over a high ridge on a mountainous road in the Alta Vera Paz province of Guatemala. He was en route to the village of Tactic where he intended to spend the evening.

His attention was drawn to two birds, which he managed to collect. He mentions in his 1876 account of the "Yellow-cheeked Warbler" that he was "too intent upon securing the specimens to observe much of their movements and habits."

Salvin and Philip Sclater described the species, new to science, the next year in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London.

Chuck Sexton, Ph.D., Wildlife Biologist
Balcones Canyonlands NWR

The chapter congratulates
Phyllis Muska
and
Dan Behringer
for receiving the
Texas Forest Service
Forest Stewardship
award.

The Certified Forest Steward program was created to identify and recognize landowners who manage their land according to sound stewardship principles.

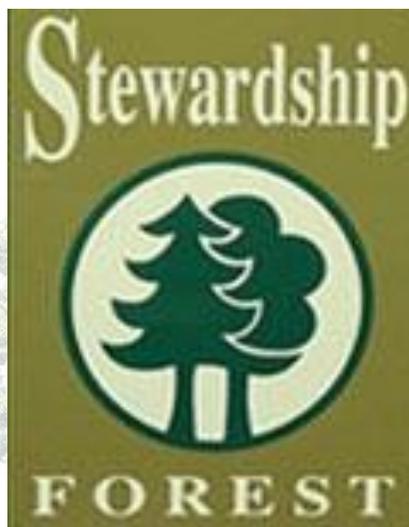
<http://txforestservicetamu.edu>

Phyllis and Dan were nominated by Robert Edmonson of the Texas Forest Service Johnson City office.

Program Rules

1. A basic eligibility requirement of 10 or more qualifying acres for consideration.
2. The landowner must have a written Stewardship plan for the property that:
 - Identifies the owner's management objectives.
 - Identifies and describes the resources (timber, wildlife, soil, water, recreation, etc.) that are to be managed.
 - Contains a schedule, list, or description of the activities recommended to meet the stated objectives.
3. A nomination form needs to be completed and submitted.
4. The nominations will be reviewed on a continuous basis.

Landowners receive a metal sign for the property and a certificate signed by the State Forester.



Examples of Stewardship Practices

- Use voluntary Best Management Practices
- Critical area repair and planting
- Protect historical/cultural resources
- Recreation trail establishment
- Tree planting/natural regeneration
- Prescribed fire
- Stand improvement
- Boundary lines well defined
- Fire lane installation & maintenance
- Install food plots
- Install nest boxes
- Pond stocking or fertilization

VOLUNTEER PROJECT ALERT!

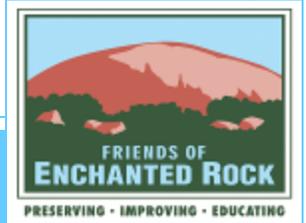
ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA

Class of 2009 member, Lou McKaughan, has re-activated and expanded this project in support of a unique geological feature in the Hill Country - Enchanted Rock is one of the largest batholiths in the United States. Project activities at Enchanted Rock SNA are sponsored by the Friends of Enchanted Rock and TPWD.



Please contact Lou if you:

- Enjoy assignments in beautiful surroundings.
- Have information regarding history, geology, plants, or animals of Enchanted Rock that should be included in the volunteer training notebook.
- Would like to lead interpretive tours.
- Have questions about the project.



Project ID: GL-03-A

Project Coordinator: Lou McKaughan, Cynthia_McKaughan@nps.gov

Our chapter congratulates **Leanne Beauxbeannes and Anne Cassidy** on their outstanding project with the **Bandera County Boys and Girls Club.**



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

DID YOU KNOW ...

We are "taking a walk on the wild side" at the Boys & Girls Club?

The Boys & Girls Club of Bandera County and Hill Country State Natural Area are presenting a program that teaches several different aspects of nature and our environment. The program is lead by Park Specialist Leanne Beauxbeannes and Board President and Master Naturalist, Anne Cassidy. Activities include fieldtrips, fishing trips, as well as, opportunities to enjoy nature all around us. If you feel adventurous, come join us for a "walk on the wild side". Please contact us for program schedule.



Matilda Merrell and Lilly Davis collecting specimens on a "wild" walk.

PO Box 3155, Bandera, TX 78003
830-796-8109
www.bgcbanderacounty.org

Harriet Warren has generously donated her class tuition refund to the chapter.

Thanks, Harriet!

Tuition refund donations are used to help fund projects and achieve the chapter's mission.

To make a contribution contact [Martha Miesch, treasurer.](#)



Our front page banner image is courtesy of David K. Langford of Comfort. He has graciously donated this beautiful Hill Country photograph for use in our chapter newsletter. Mr. Langford is the husband of chapter member Myrna Langford. westernphotographycompany.com

From Tom Collins



Gulf Fritillary caterpillar, 25 Sept.

Here is the result of the Gulf Fritillary cat to chrysalis (metamorphosis) process, 10 Oct.

Common Name: Gulf fritillary

Scientific Name: *Agraulis vanillae incarnata* (Riley)

Order: Lepidoptera

Description: This species is not a true fritillary, are sometimes separated into a separate family of long-butterflies (Heliconiidae) rather than being included in the brushfooted butterflies (Nymphalidae). Adults, with a three inch wingspan, are brilliant orange with black markings on the elongated wings. The underside of the hind wing and tip of the forewing have prominent silver spots and brown markings. Fully grown larvae is about 1-1/2 inches long, gray to brown-black with three pairs of reddish-brown lengthwise stripes. The head and body segments bear black, branched spines.

Seven species of Heliconidae butterflies, called "longwings", occur in Texas. Caterpillars of all of these species feed on passion flower leaves.

Life Cycle: Adult females lay elongated, ribbed, buff yellow eggs on host plants. Larvae develop through several stages (instars) before forming a brown chrysalis.

Habitat and Food Source(s): Caterpillars have chewing mouthparts. Adults have siphoning mouths. Caterpillars feed on leaves of passion flower, *Passiflora* spp. Adults visit numerous flowers and migrate northward and feed on nectar.

Pest Status: Harmless.

insects.tamu.edu/fieldguide/cimg286.html

Announcing a change of HC TMN Database Manager

The board of directors wishes to announce that Lloyd Hemmert, our current Database Manager, has advised us that he has been accepted into a doctorate program. Due to time constraints, Lloyd will not be able to continue his role with our chapter.

We all know Lloyd as the member-behind-the-scenes who tracks our volunteer project and advanced training hours - an essential function for the chapter, enabling us to award certifications, recertifications, and milestone pins.

We extend our thanks to Lloyd for his assistance and wish him success in his new challenge!

We welcome our new Database Manager

The board is pleased to announce that

Sandy Leyendecker

Class of 2008

has offered to take the role of Database Manager. She has been working closely with Lloyd to transition the HCMN database.

Members should direct their monthly Activity Reports to Sandy.

E-mail: sandy325@windstream.net

Postal mail: Sandy Leyendecker
510 Twin Springs Rd. N.
Kerrville, TX 78028

The board welcomes Sandy and extends our appreciation and support to her as she assumes her new role with the chapter!

Note: An updated Activity Form is available on our website. Please download and use the updated form.

From Tom Schall, Cathy Downs, and Tom Collins

Improve your ID skills

The butterfly in the photographs is a female Southern Broken-Dash (*Wallengrenia otho*) This is about as far west as it can be found. It nearly always shows a "3" on the lower hindwing and the rather bright reddish-orange color is a good key.



Often shows a fuzzy "3" on the lower hindwing as seen from the left side – perhaps an "E" from the right side or mirror "3".



Good view of the female's upper surface - note the pale fringe.

Note how bright it appears without any spots (as in a Fiery, Sachus or Whirlabout). Just the mirror "3."

WANTED

Gerber Baby Food Containers

Do you or someone you know use Gerber's "2nd Foods" 3.5-oz. baby food containers?

Please consider sending empty containers to **MONARCH WATCH** for reuse as monarch rearing chambers.

monarchwatch.org/gerber

The Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas

Monarch Watch
 Dedicated to Education, Conservation, & Research

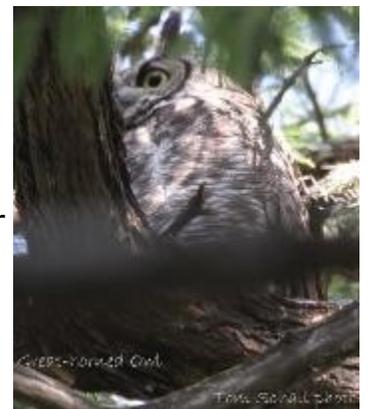


Monarch Watch is a nonprofit educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas that focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration.



From the RNC Weekly Fauna Census, 9/18/09

A Red-Shouldered Hawk decided to evict a Great-Horned Owl from a large cypress tree and neither bird was willing to budge. This occurred for about five minutes while we stood under the tree watching the Red-shouldered Hawk scream and the Great-horned Owl scowl back at the intruder. This was a second record for the Great-horned at RNC and the first for the Fauna Census, the first record was a historical report from Susan Sander in 1996. We left the two unhappy birds and will always wonder who won the King of the Cypress Tree battle.



Tom Collins

Create Leaf Rubbings

**Sing like a Bird
Howl like a Wolf
Croak like a Frog**

LEARN HOW TO USE A COMPASS

CAN YOU MATCH THE ANIMAL TRACKS?

Find a forest or park near you

There's a Lot of Fun Things to Do in Nature
Here are some cool games and activities you can play online. You can also print The Book of Stuff to Do Outside. There's something in it for everyone, whether it's the creative you, the playful you, or the curious you.

GET THE BOOK OF STUFF TO DO OUTSIDE!
THIS BOOK IS FULL OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURES YOU CAN TAKE WITH YOU.
PRINT YOURS NOW!

**Our forests & parks
Where The Other
You Lives**

A resource for Master Naturalists. Check out the Where To Go and What To Do pages of this website from the U.S. Forest Service. www.discovertheforest.org/index.php



You can help protect and maintain native species and crucial habitats while helping to support important conservation programs by purchasing a Horned Lizard or Bluebonnet license plate.



The Bluebonnet plate helps support park operations and programs at more than 90 state parks.



The Horned Lizard plate funds projects that help implement the Texas Wildlife Action Plan by maintaining native species and crucial habitats.

Each plate costs \$30 in addition to regular registration fees and \$22 goes directly to TPW. Learn more and order your plates online at conservationplate.org.

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



Hill Country Chapter

Board of Directors 2009

John Huecksteadt - President

Jim Gardner - Vice President

Gracie Waggener - Secretary

Martha Miesch - Treasurer

Steve Dodge - Director of Advanced Training

Bob McKinley - Director of Class Training

Phyllis Muska - Director of Communications

Julie Clay - Director of Membership

Priscilla Stanley - Director of Volunteer Service Projects

William Lummis - 2008 New Class Representative

Jim Stanley - Immediate Past President

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
grovesite.com/tmn/hcmn

We meet the fourth Monday of each month (excluding December) at 7:00pm
Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville.
Everyone is welcome, please join us.



Lindheimera texana: Texas Star

Texas Master Naturalist mission:

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

Hill Country Master Naturalist
P.O. Box 293972
Kerrville, Texas 78029-3972

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

The Texas Star newsletter is a monthly publication of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program. News, comments, information, and ideas are always welcome. Please contact **Kristie Denbow**, editor, denbow@gvvc.com.

AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System