

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter

T E X A S



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Rare, Endangered, and Threatened in the four counties.



Red Wolf
Canis rufus
Bandera County

Tarantula 1
Naturalists 0
Page 15

September 2011



Volume 9
No. 9

SEPTEMBER MEETING ... TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Justin Foster is a research coordinator directing research projects for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Region 2 division. This region comprises Central Texas. Justin will focus on Hill Country topics summarizing completed, ongoing, and future research.

He will describe projects involving: white-tailed deer; black capped vireos; Mexican free-tailed bats at Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area; javelinas; and feral swine.



Justin will discuss a new tool for capture and anesthesia of large mammals, continued selection and delivery of feral pig toxicants, and javelina diet studies.

Future research at Kerr Wildlife Management Area, and other studies of javelina, feral pigs, and coyotes will also be covered.

Join us and bring a friend. September 26 at 7p.m. in the UGRA Lecture Hall. Arrive early to enjoy our social half-hour beginning at 6:30.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ... Phyllis Muska

To Feed or Not To Feed?

Our furry and feathered friends are suffering through this drought and heat along with us. There's hardly anything for them to eat since so few forbs and grasses came back this year, so it's natural to want to help them out with supplemental feeding. Most wildlife biologists would advise against feeding animals, particularly deer, even in these hard times. That sounds like "tough love," but in the long run, feeding wild animals creates problems for us as well as the animals.

- Young animals raised on feed from humans may not learn how to forage for themselves. They may not survive when they leave their parents' territory and go off on their own.
- Animals accustomed to being fed by humans lose their fear of people. They may approach others for food, and be taken as aggressive.

They may cause damage to homes and property. Their survival depends on a healthy wariness of people.

- By providing a regular food source, you may attract more animals to the area than can be sustained. And if one animal in the group has an illness or disease, it can spread easily among a large number of animals.
- To keep things in balance, nature regulates the number of animals being born according to the amount of available food. But with an artificial food supply, animals may produce more young than what natural food sources can support.

The best thing you can do to care for the wild animals on your property is to provide habitat and natural food sources. "Wildscaping" is a great way to provide the animals with natural sources of food and shelter that will not put them in

THIS MONTH WE HONOR

Milestones

Bronze 250 Hours

Koy Coffe
Ruth McArthur

2011 Recertification

Horned Lizard

Norma Bruns
Koy Coffe
Rhoda Reynolds
Linda Louise Ross
Harriet Warren
Mary Frances Watson

First Year Certification

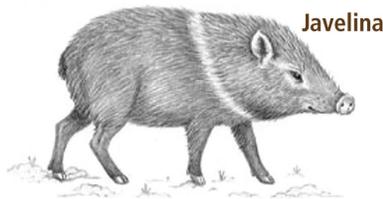
Dragonfly

Carolyn Bean
Michael Foulds

It was a strange day, but Mother Nature teaches us something new every single day.

Rafael Abreu, U.S. Geological Survey geophysicist

Do you know?



Javelina



Hog

Feral pigs are not related to native javelinas. Feral pigs are true pigs; javelinas are collared peccaries *Tayassu [Pecari] tajacu* – a separate family of mammals.



Javelina

White-tailed Deer

Feral Hog

TPWD

President’s message continued.

danger the way a handout might. You can enjoy the wildlife on your property at a safe distance.

If you decide to feed in spite of all the arguments against it, don’t use corn. Corn is less than 10% protein, not nearly adequate for deer’s nutritional needs: it’s “junk food” for deer. Another problem with deer corn is that it can contain high levels of aflatoxin, a toxic mold which grows on corn and can kill turkey and hurt deer. You avoid problems with aflatoxin when you buy high-protein deer pellets. Now that corn has gotten so expensive, the pellets don’t seem so costly in comparison.

Keep in mind that if the deer feed is the entire

diet of the deer, each deer you feed requires approximately four pounds per day – so if you’re feeding half a dozen deer, they’ll go through a couple of 50-lb bags every week. This will vary by season: bucks increase food consumption during antler development, and does need more feed during lactation and in the fall and winter for good reproductive success. Most people don’t provide that much feed, so the deer still need to browse. With the overpopulation of deer in the Hill Country, our land ends up overgrazed and overbrowsed, and our deer are smaller, with inferior antlers. So if you choose to feed, remember that regular, selective harvesting is essential to maintain the balance.

ADVANCED TRAINING**AT 11-059 TREES AND SHRUBS ID**

Wednesday, September 14, 1P, Texas Lions Camp, free.

Jim Stanley will provide knowledge and identification tools for native plants.

AT 11-115 Monarch Training

Wednesday, September 21; Thursday, September 22; and Friday, September 23, CNC, \$30 per person.

Monarch Monitoring Workshop: Texas Monarch Watch, Cibolo Nature Center, and Texas Master Naturalists will train volunteers to mark migrating monarch butterflies with paper tags and examine milkweed for monarch larvae to aid scientists as part of the Monarch Larval Monitoring Project, Monarch Watch and Journey North. Registration required: 830-249-4616 or www.cibolo.org/calendar/event/training-for-monarch-butterfly-monitors.

AT 11-111 Water Conservation in a Drought Environment

Saturday, October 1, 10A, Down By the Riverside Nature Festival @ RNC

Tara Bushnoe is the Natural Resources Coordinator for the Upper Guadalupe River Authority. She will discuss Kerr County water sources and threats to water quality and quantity.

AT 11-113 Harvesting Rainwater - Why and How

Saturday, October 1, 11A, Down By the Riverside Nature Festival @ RNC

Jim Stanley, Texas Master Naturalist, will discuss the reasons for harvesting rainwater as well as the basics of how to collect rainwater, the equipment needed and its availability. Details of the Stanley's own system will be discussed. Questions and answers will be followed by a tour of the RNC rainwater harvesting system.

AT 11-112 Raptors, Those Awesome, Intriguing Birds of Prey

Saturday, October 1, 11:30A, Down By the Riverside Nature Festival @ RNC

John Karger of Last Chance Forever will share his knowledge of raptors.

AT 11-060 FORBS ID

Wednesday, October 5, 1P, Texas Lions Camp, free.

John Huecksteadt will educate participants about native forbs and their identification.

AT 11-106 RIPARIAN SUMMIT

Thursday, October 6, 9A-4P, Blue Star Contemporary Art Center San Antonio, free, lunch provided.

A gathering of passionate riparian people! The Remarkable Riparian Summit presents a new opportunity to Map the Future for Functional Creeks & Rivers in Texas. Hosted by the Nueces River Authority.

Registration required: space limited, register online or contact Sky Jones-Lewey, slewey@nueces-ra.org

AT 11-095 ECOSYSTEMS FOR RANGE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

October 7; 1-5P; Kerr Wildlife Management Area (KWMA), free

Kerr WMA offers public seminars the first of each month beginning in August. Topics discussed include: white-tailed deer management, grazing management, prescribed burning and brush control as well as how these management techniques effect threatened and endangered species.

Registration: required call Lisa Wolle at KWMA headquarters, 830-238-4483.

AT 11-118 Chimney Swifts

Tuesday, October 10, 7P, Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office, free

Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center host monthly Nature Series programs during the school year. Paul & Georgean Kyle will explore the secretive home life of these aerial acrobats, their fight to cling to survival, and what is being done to conserve their declining numbers

T 11-061 GRASS ID

Wednesday, October 26, 1P, Texas Lions Camp, free.

Jim Stanley will provide knowledge and identification tools for native grasses.

AT 11-102 TEXAS INVASIVE PLANT AND PEST CONFERENCE

November 8,9,10; Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Austin

Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council hosts the fourth statewide conference on invasive species.

A professional level meeting including keynotes, concurrent sessions, posters, field trips, and symposia Visit the 2011 Conference Website at texasinvasives.org.

Hill Country Chapter Founding Fathers (and Mothers)

by Phyllis Muska

Our Fall 2011 class is well underway, with an impressive and enthusiastic group of new members. You'll find introductions to the class members in this issue.

Because this is our tenth class, I thought it would be interesting to take a look back at the first class of the Master Naturalist, Hill Country chapter, which took place in the fall of 2002. Following the completion of this first class, we became an official chapter in 2003.

Sandy Peña headed up the original steering committee, and went on to

serve as our first president. There were twenty-eight members in the Class of 2002, and some of these folks are still very active in the chapter, including **Jane Crone,**

Myrna Langford, Barbara Lowenthal, Sandy Peña, Edna Platte, Jim Stanley, and **Priscilla Stanley.**

Without the vision and dedication of these pioneers, we wouldn't have the chapter we have today,

so we should make a point of recognizing them and thanking them for their efforts in making it happen. We can track the chapter history through the past newsletters – they're all available on our web site.



12th Annual Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting and Advanced Training

October 21- 23 Mo Ranch

regonline.com/TMN_12th_Annual_Meeting

registration closes October 11

Please note: There is no pre-registration for Advanced Training sessions. Advanced Training sessions are on a first-come basis on-site at the annual meeting. Arrive early to guarantee your spot. Classroom space is limited.

Please select Advanced Training session interest as part of registration to help plan for classroom size.

There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque-flower is a right as inalienable as free speech.

Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, 1909

The Class of 2011

Melody Rose Baker

Melody Rose was born in the Rio Grande Valley, and grew up around Harlingen and San Benito. At an early age she enjoyed bird watching with her mother. She moved to the Hill Country in 2001, immediately falling in love with the San Marcos River.

In 2005 she began studies in horticulture and agriculture, beginning her quest for a Master of Education in Agricultural Education, with undergraduate degrees in English and history. Melody Rose specialized in Nature and Heritage Tourism. She piloted glass-bottom boats and kayaks at Aquarena Center in San Marcos, and is a Certified Interpreter (CIG) with experience at West Cave Preserve.

Melody Rose recently moved to Kerrville, where she is the assistant to the Kerrville Folk Festival producer.

Stephen Bishop

Stephen retired in 2010 after working for thirty five years in health care administration, information systems. He has extended experience with networks, databases, and website design. Stephen is interested in digital sound recording and editing, digital photography, and digital photo processing.

An avid outdoorsman, Stephen has been a docent with the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center since 2005, and has joined the education committee of the Friends of Government Canyon. He leads some of the monthly hikes.

One of his most memorable recent encounters occurred while sitting on his front porch, a Bewick's wren flew down and landed on his leg. It remained there for a minute and was a thrill to experience.

Rheda Boardman

Rheda comes to the program, as many of us did, already a 'naturalist'. For the past fourteen years she has spent considerable time kayaking and canoeing Hill Country and other Texas rivers. Rheda has a vast knowledge of Texas rivers. She gained working knowledge of both native and adapted plants through self-study and experimentation with landscaping at her Boerne home.

Rheda has volunteered as a 'bird box monitor' at Cibolo Nature Center; acted as American Red Cross safety instructor for kayaks, canoes, and small water craft; served as a citizen scientist for prairie vegetation; and volunteered for the San Marcos and Medina Rivers spring clean-ups. She hopes to turn her knowledge and love of rivers into conservation and education efforts involving riparian areas, water quality, and associated wildlife.

Rheda is retired, but currently works at Peterson Hospital in Kerrville as a Registered Nurse.

Joani Broussard

Joani Broussard, a native Texan, grew up in Robstown. She lived in East Texas for twenty years and moved to Bandera in 2006 where she lives with "the love of her life", husband Gordon, five Lhasa Apsos, and many chickens. She worked as an internal auditor and traveled all over Texas and several other states before retiring in 2010.

Joani has three beautiful children and six wonderful grandchildren - all nature lovers and most are gardeners. Joani learned to garden with her dad, a farmer, and always had a backyard garden. He taught her a love of nature and growing things, and the pleasure of eating your own home-grown vegetables.

While in East Texas, bird watching became a hobby and she learned to identify many birds by sight and sound. She describes sighting a pileated woodpecker in her backyard forest as, "feeling better than a Christmas morning." She has fifteen feeders on her property.

Joani and Master Naturalist cousin Rita Bernadette DeShields shared many trips over the years camping, bird watching, and enjoying the beauty of the outdoors. She is excited as a school girl, and recently said she was so ready for the new experience of being a Master Naturalist.

Phillip Brush

Phillip is from the Houston area. He attended the University of Georgia majoring in history, and moved back to Texas where he worked at Echo Hill Ranch for eight years. Phillip now lives in Bandera. While working in the Hill Country, Phillip decided he wanted to learn about the local geology, ecosystems, wildlife, plants, and how to manage it all. He heard about the chapter's class and all that it covers, so he decided to sign-up.

Phillip has volunteered for the American Red Cross many times; he truly enjoys helping others. He likes spending time outdoors and has many stories to share. He likes to play the bass and guitar. Asked what he thinks one of his strengths is he firmly replied, "Transmitting information I've learned to others." Phillip will be an asset to our class.

Ann Carabin

Ann was Piano Department Chairperson at Saint Mary's Hall in San Antonio for thirty years. When she retired, she and her husband, Dan, moved to their property outside Comfort. A dedicated teacher, she continues to have piano students in Comfort. Ann enjoys classes at Schreiner University, learning to knit, and pursuing her reading, sewing, and gardening hobbies. Ann feels the best way we can sustain and protect our natural world is to help others become aware of its beauty and value. Ann hopes volunteering through the program will allow her to better serve her new home.

Dan Carabin

Dan is presently closing his San Antonio law office. He has served as an attorney in San Antonio for almost fifty years. He and wife Ann now enjoy life near Comfort. After completing the classes, Dan hopes to help the Last Chance Forever project outside Comfort. Dan and Ann have dedicated themselves to restoring their unique natural environment by identifying and protecting native plants and trees, wildlife habitat, and supporting their varied bird population.

Daneshu Ann Clarke

Daneshu (pronounced Da- knee-sha) is a graduate of Tivy High School in Kerrville. She worked as a computer programmer and data processing and computer applications guru in the private sector, and during her twenty-one years in the Navy Reserve.

She began teaching Programming and Microcomputer Applications at San Antonio's McArthur High School in 1984, moving to Boerne High School in 1996. She retired from the active Navy Reserve in 2002, then from teaching in 2003. After another period in the private sector, she retired finally in 2009.

Daneshu and her husband, Jim, have two children. Daughter, JD, is set to retire from the Marine Corps in 2011. Daughter Lee lives in Pipe Creek. Daneshu and Jim have lived in Boerne since 1975. In 2001 they purchased 215 acres in Rocksprings, Texas for a place to "relax." They moved a 1920's vintage house from Kerrville to the Rocksprings ranch and are currently renovating it. They practice wildlife land management and raise Boer/Spanish goats.

Daneshu learned of the program from an interpretive guide at Enchanted Rock. She volunteers at the Cibolo Nature Center and participated in the recent plant rescue effort. She states, "I would like to learn more about the environment and protecting it. I would like to share my knowledge and skills with others and be an example for my grandchildren."

Michele Crawford

Michele's fourteen-year-old son calls her a "nature nerd" and she is proud of it. She is a biology professor with tenure at Southwest Texas Community College in Uvalde. Michele thoroughly enjoys teaching and sharing her knowledge of nature with students. Their campus receives a large number of migrating monarch butterflies each year. Michele plans to create a class project and build a butterfly garden with native plants.

Michele is constantly expanding her knowledge of the outdoors. She attended a wildlife identification class where she learned both common and scientific names of plants and waterfowl and had to identify them in the field.

Michele will be commuting each week from Uvalde. She is excited to get involved with the Hill Country chapter and chose our chapter over the Alamo Area Chapter, because she prefers the beauty of the Hill Country over driving in San Antonio.

Betty Clyburn

Betty is a native of Houston. Her early exposure to nature was through summer camp at Heart of the Hills in Hunt, where she developed an early love for the Hill Country. After graduating from Duke University she traveled around Europe with friends and found a job as a tour guide for the United States Army Rest and Recreation Center in Garmisch, Germany. This job required hiking and biking in the Alps. While there she met her husband to be, a medic supporting the U.S. operation. They returned to Texas and spent most of their working life in Fort Bend County and Houston raising two daughters and Betty working as a real estate broker.

After the girls left home, Betty became involved in the docent program at the American Decorative Arts wing of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts at Bayou Bend for ten years. Her parents retired to Kerrville in the early 70's and thus Kerrville became a natural choice when she retired in 2009. Betty lives with her husband in a house they built on fifty acres between Kerrville and Harper.

Sally Garrett

Sally's passion has centered on wildlife and the natural world for most of her life. Sally was born and raised in Houston, and loved spending time at one of her favorite places – Padre Island. She later moved to New Hampshire and graduated with a Master of Science in Environmental Studies from Antioch New England Graduate School. Sally censused a herd of white-tailed deer on a Maine reserve for one of her practicums. She also assisted a professor with research on hippo communication in Tanzania. She is also a photographer.

Sally worked for the Nature Conservancy, particularly on the Karner blue butterfly project. She served on the Conservation Commission in New Boston, New Hampshire for several years. During that time Sally coordinated the Vermont-based "Keeping Track" program promoting wildlife corridors into New Hampshire. That program is going strong today.

She left the corporate world and started her own company, Earthlight Energies, utilizing her skills as an herbalist to create a line of natural products. Sally lives on an amazing piece of land in the canyons of Tarpley. Even in this drought, it feels idyllic in its variety of plants, trees, and wildlife. She is creating a retreat center and nature sanctuary on her property - a good place to teach respect for Mother Nature and her creatures.

Jan Grimes

Jan of Bandera is bound to be one of the star students in the class of 2011. She is a Master Gardener who knows the meaning of volunteer work and passing knowledge on to the community. She was a big part of installing the first-ever vegetable garden at the Bandera Boys and Girls Club - with the help of many little hands.

She had the privilege of joining Tom Collins on the butterfly survey and was amazed at the amount of knowledge that group of master naturalists had, and how willing they were to share. A semi-retired nurse and part-time volunteer at the Bandera Library, Jan has decided to commit herself to the classes and volunteer hours as a new Master Naturalist this fall. She is interested in teaching children, plant identification, gardening, and water conservation. Leanne says, "I am happy to be her mentor and so glad to welcome her into the fold."

Louis Guisti

Louis, born and raised in Galveston, graduated with a Master of Education from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. He and his wife, Maureen, will be married forty-five years in September 2011. They have a son and daughter, and seven grandchildren.

Louis was a teacher, coach, counselor, assistant principal, and principle. His career spanned more than thirty-seven years with the Deer Park Independent School District in southeast Harris County. He taught adults English as a second language for the Harris County Department of Education for seventeen years.

He retired five years ago, and now lives in Bandera County on a small ranch at the top of Bandera Pass on Hwy 173. His hobbies are hunting and canoeing. Louis is interested in continuing his lifelong learning experience. He wants to share knowledge and experiences with others, and teach in public schools and outdoor workshops, and give back to the community.

Sharron Jay

You will all come to know, love, respect, learn with, and laugh with Sharron. She is married to Larry and together they live on and operate the Block Creek Natural Area - Turkey Hollow in Comfort. They have two sons and their families are Texans as well. Sharron worked for the Texas Wildlife Association for fifteen years. WOW! What a great master naturalist she will be.

Sharron's talents are endless - accounting, computer, fundraising, photography, graphic arts, public speaking, teaching, event hostess, and willingness to take on new challenges. Her interests are: cataloging plants, mapping, helping others with their property/land, becoming a guide, and mostly learning as much as she can about Texas native plants, wildlife, and ecosystems.

Merrily Labarthe

Merrily brings an extraordinarily rich portfolio of volunteering, nature education, and community service to the chapter. Born in Seattle, she grew-up in Hawaii, and earned her degree from Bennett College. She also studied in Switzerland, receiving a French language certificate.

Merrily taught art at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston and as a Houston Museum of Fine Arts docent. She was tapped to be President of the Guilds of the Museum of Fine Arts, the Zoological Society of Houston, and the Museum's Collectors Guild. She served on the board of the Women's Institute of Houston, an organization that offers adult continuing education.

Merrily moved to Atlanta, Georgia in 2000. Her thirst for volunteering took her to the Atlanta Botanical Garden. She worked as a docent and became involved in 'poison dart frog' care, tissue culture of endangered plants, and conservation issues with native trilliums. In 2003 she became a Master Gardener. This training led her to work in the Atlanta History Center's native plant garden, the woodland gardens at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, and to head up the children's native plant garden at Bullock Hall in Roswell, Georgia. More training resulted in Merrily obtaining a Certificate in Native Plants from the Georgia State Botanical Garden in Athens. The lure of these gardens kept Merrily busy and in the last few years, she averaged more than 400 hours per year in associated volunteer activities.

Married to Darwin Labarthe in 1970 (described by Merrily as "the best thing she has ever done"), she and Darwin have four beloved children and seven adored grandchildren.

Timothy Lewis

Tim came to the Hill Country in January of this year. He served twenty years in the army in countries including Germany, Vietnam, South America, Turkey, and South Korea.

He left the military as a lieutenant colonel, and became a science teacher at Baytown, Texas. He holds a Texas lifetime teaching certification for biology, chemistry, physics, and marine science. From the teaching profession he became the site director at Big Hill Strategic Petroleum Reserve Site for the Department of Energy and held that position for eighteen years.

Tim is active in the Mesa Verde Association, Organization for Bat Conservation, National Wildlife Federation, South Texas Herpetology Association, Riverside Nature Center, and Terra Linda Volunteer Fire Department. Tim had a reptile house and put on snake shows teaching identification, first aid/safety, and conservation to numerous groups as a community service.

In his bio, Tim states, "I have wanted to be a naturalist since I was six years-old and sixteen years later I graduated with a BS in biology and have continued to love the field all of my life."

Carl Luckenbach

Carl was raised in La Grange, Texas and attended Texas A&M University. After graduation he served in the Air Force for ten years. He earned an MBA, and was in the commercial casualty insurance business until his retirement in early 2011. Carl is active in Rotary, serves on the German - Texas Heritage Society Board of Directors, and on the Boys and Girls Club of Fredericksburg Advisory Board. Carl and wife Vicky have three children and seven grandchildren. The Luckenbachs built a house on their property located about halfway between Fredericksburg and Enchanted Rock.

Pat McCormick

Ric McCormick

Pat and Ric McCormick moved to the Texas Hill Country after retiring from high tech careers in Silicon Valley. When they moved from California, the McCormicks built their house near Wolf Creek, complete with a 23,000-gallon cistern which has yet to be tested.

Pat, a Master Gardener is active in the Fredericksburg NPSOT chapter, where she served as vice president in charge of programs in 2011. She looks forward to getting involved in work with bird counts and butterfly gardens.

Ric is also active in Fredericksburg NPSOT, as well as the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Boys and Girls Club, math tutoring, and the energy fair. He teaches one class of algebra at Ambleside School of Fredericksburg. Ric is interested in working with people to create plans for preserving native plants and habitat on their land.

Woody Mock, Jr.

Woodrow Mock, Jr. is a retired industrial environmental chemist. He was born and raised in Louisiana, and worked there until 1985 before moving to La Porte, Texas. Upon retiring, Woody was ready to move to the Hill Country to get away from the flatlands where he had always lived. He is excited to learn about and experience nature in this part of Texas.

Kathleen Mundy

Kathleen is a retired architect. She worked in residential and commercial architecture. She also spent some time working as an architect for Sea World. Now that she is retired she lives on her ranch in Kendall County, where she hikes her property and gardens daily. She enjoys kayaking most every weekend - weather and water permitting. Her hobbies include photography, video taping, and computers. She has applied these skills to her volunteer efforts in the region.

She is interested in expanding her knowledge of good land stewardship, volunteering on research projects, and teaching others about nature. She is especially interested in aquatic ecosystems, habitat restoration, and land management.

Kathleen is very enthusiastic and will bring energy and excitement to any project that is lucky to have her participation.

Kay Plavidal

Kay moved from Austin to Fredericksburg a year ago. She has a geology degree and worked as a geologist for three years, a technical writer for seventeen years, and in the last few years she taught Environmental Science and Environmental Geology at Austin Community College. She is active in the Sierra Club and is chair of the Austin Regional Group. Kay says, "I want to know I've made a difference."

Tara Randle

Tara has lived in the Pipe Creek area for twenty-one years. She is married to Randy and has two children ages thirteen and ten. She participates in the Hill Country Elementary and Bandera Middle School PTOs. She also volunteers with the cub scouts.

Tara likes the views and natural beauty of the area and enjoys hiking, gardening, and photography. She wants to learn more about local wildlife and their habitats, and wants to better understand how to manage the land and help preserve natural beauty.

Carole Reed

Carole is a passionate life-learner who is full of questions. Carole is a realtor, and no stranger to volunteering. She found out about our training program volunteering for the Wings Over the Hills Festival. Carole is a member of the Rotary Club and Golden Hub. She and her family reside on the edge of Fredericksburg where they have a great view of nature every day.

Carole has already learned a lot about the area's plant and animal life and looks forward to learning more. She enjoys public speaking, photography, and teaching. She has a great concern for the natural world. Carole is excited to put her talents to work helping to educate others about the natural resources in the Texas Hill Country.

Rick Scott

Rick is originally from Miami, Florida but spent most of his adult life in Arizona. For many years Rick worked at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. He worked in the university greenhouses and managed National Forest Service test plantings. He also worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department surveying fish and mapping the riparian areas on Arizona's Verde River. In 1981 he earned a Master of Science in Botany for his studies on wild shrub propagation. He also spent sixteen years in the Arizona Army National Guard.

Tired of bitter winter cold and snow, Rick moved to the more temperate winter climate of Fredericksburg in December 2010.

Rick likes being outdoors around native plants and wild animals. He was introduced to the master naturalist program through his association with the Fredericksburg Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas where he has become an active member. He looks forward to involvement in programs where his interests, knowledge, and skills can be best realized.

Rick enjoys gardening, hiking, sailing, canoeing, and birding, and is eager to meet and share experiences and interests with his new classmates.

Bob Smith

Robert David is better known as “Dr. Bob”. A physician and a scientist, Dr. Bob is an Emergency Health Sciences instructor at UT Health Science Center in San Antonio. He published scientific papers and made national and international scientific presentations. Bob has taught paramedic classes, been a volunteer firefighter and EMT, and a controller and participant for Mass Casualty Emergency Preparedness Exercises. He has advanced training in Wilderness Medicine.

Bob, an Eagle Scout, was a parachutist in the United States Army and finished the Houston Marathon. In his spare time Bob swims, kayaks, and enjoys horseback riding.

Dr. Bob lives on a 3,000-acre cattle ranch and wildlife preserve which is collectively owned by about 250 families. Land management practices on the ranch have been suboptimal – the result of over-grazing and an over-population of native and exotic species. Bob hopes to learn about the Hill Country’s ecosystem to gain a better understanding of wise land stewardship and help his community make better management decisions. His goal as a Master Naturalist is to serve his community by protecting, restoring, and sharing the beauty of the local environment.

Ernest Smith

Ernest Smith is a Professor of Law at the University of Texas at Austin and the husband of chapter member, Paula Smith, Class of 2010. Their family owns a ranch in Edwards County, so Ernest is interested in learning more about the botany, geology, and ecology of the Texas Hill Country. For the past four years, the Smiths have hosted Texas A & M and Texas Tech graduate students to study endangered black-capped vireos and golden-cheeked warblers that breed on their ranch.

Ernest volunteered with Appalachian Mountain Club, the oldest conservation, recreation, and educational organization in the United States. The club dates to the 1890s. It successfully preserved large areas of the White Mountains in New Hampshire and wilderness areas in Maine. Ernest served on the board of advisors, and six years on the board of directors.

Ernest enjoys documenting birds and plants on their ranch, and is actively involved in good land stewardship. He is eager to learn more about our natural resources.

Bob Wiedenfeld

Bob and his wife Gengie built a house on their ranch property and moved here about eighteen months ago. Bob has lived in Texas most of his life, except for a ten-year period from 1962 to 1972 when he lived in California. He earned his bachelor's degree at Humboldt State University in California and both graduate degrees from Texas A&M University. Before retiring Bob worked in Agriculture Research for Texas A&M AgriLife in The Valley of South Texas.

Bob is a very busy guy who is cutting cedar and playing with his new John Deere with a grapple attachment. He teaches chemistry on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at Northwest Vista College in San Antonio. Like many Hill Country land-owners, Bob is interested in learning more about our ecosystems. He read Jim Stanley’s book on land stewardship and has begun using some of those practices on his own land. It is a pleasure to have a new neighbor who is interested in improving the land in our region. Bob is a breath of fresh air. He will definitely be a great addition to our organization and work to promote the value we hold about the land and ecosystems.

Monte Wise

Monte is a native Texan. His hometown is Quitaque (kit-a-qway), Texas, a small town in the Panhandle. His first nature experiences were at Cap Rock Canyon State Park. He is very well informed about the native prairie bison that reside in the park. DNA has confirmed the park's herd to be descended from native bison that roamed the prairies long before Texas became a republic.

Monte graduated from Texas Tech University and became a nuclear engineer working in commercial development for electricity production. He followed his life's work to Washington state, Wisconsin, and back to Texas.

He and his wife, Anita, live in and love Kerrville. They consider it 'paradise'. Monte loves the outdoors, is an avid gardener, enjoys photography, and is active in Kerrville First Presbyterian Church. He is 'Mr. Fix-It' and loves to bring broken things back to life.



Boerne scout Shawn Hampton completed his Eagle project at Kreutzberg Canyon Natural Area (KCNA). Shawn designed and lead construction of an information kiosk and two benches. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow and Senior Patrol leader of Troop 102. Shawn says, "Being able to help open a new wonderful park for our community to enjoy for years to come is very rewarding." Shawn achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on September 8, 2011. Kendall County Partnership for Parks thanks Shawn for choosing KCNA for his project. He did an outstanding job!

Know of a scout needing a project ? KCPP has plenty to choose from. Email kristie@kendallcountyparks.org.

Learn about issues affecting
the Hill Country.

Read Jim Stanley's columns for
the Kerrville Daily Times
@ hillcountrynaturalist.org/

from TPWD

Wildfires Rage across Texas

This year, some of Texas' biggest, hottest wildfires in memory have consumed over 3.6 million acres so far, causing devastating hardship and loss for humans and habitat. View this [video report](#) on the fire at Bastrop State Park, with footage taken during the first few days of the developing disaster. Just 100 acres of the park's 6,000-acreage have survived.

Recovery will take a long time. Wild lands recovery depends on a lot of things, most importantly rain. This [Fire on the Prairie video](#) is a hopeful reminder that the land can recover in amazing ways.

Visiting a park that has burned earlier this year offers a chance to observe wildfire recovery first hand, such as Possum Kingdom State Park where only 200 of the park's 1,500 lakeside acres were saved. Over the next months, you can watch nature's remarkable response begin to show.





**First Day of Class &
Volunteer Projects Fair
August 24, 2011**



Karla Trefny and Floyd Trefny interested class members in the new Texas Stream Team project.



Gracie Waggener, Kip Kiphart, and Cathy Downs at the monarch monitoring project booth.



Debbie Bond showed off critters that benefit from volunteer service at Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation



Tom Hynes described service opportunities with Last Chance Forever.



Linda Ross promoted her project at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area.



Cynthia Burgin signed-up folks for L.A.N.D.S.

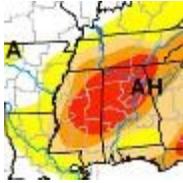


Jane Crone represented the Fredericksburg Nature Center.



Valeska Danielak told class members how they can help at Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area.

handheld apps for naturalists



Drought/Fire Monitor



Sleepmaker Rain Pro



Texas Stream Team



What's your favorite app?
Share it with us at denbow@gvtc.com.

HEY, WHAT IS THAT ?
Be first to discover the creature in the image below and you will find yourself with the psychedelic dragonfly next month.



Stephanie Stone Perry

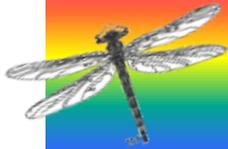


Stephanie Stone Perry

No one guessed the subject of Stephanie Stone Perry's photograph - Martha the Tarantula's carapace after ecdysis or molting. Thanks to Steph for such a great photo.

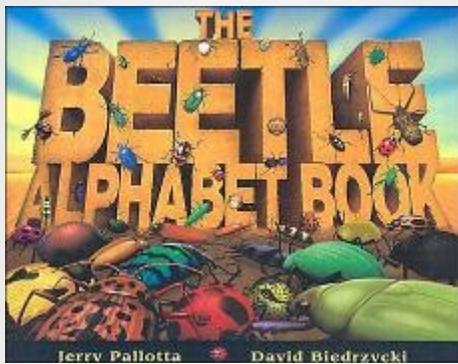
Come on, naturalists - you can do it next time!

August



Tarantula 1
Naturalists 0

NATURE OF READING BOOKS FOR NATURALISTS



The Beetle Alphabet Book
Jerry Pallotta
2004

The more you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.
Dr. Suess



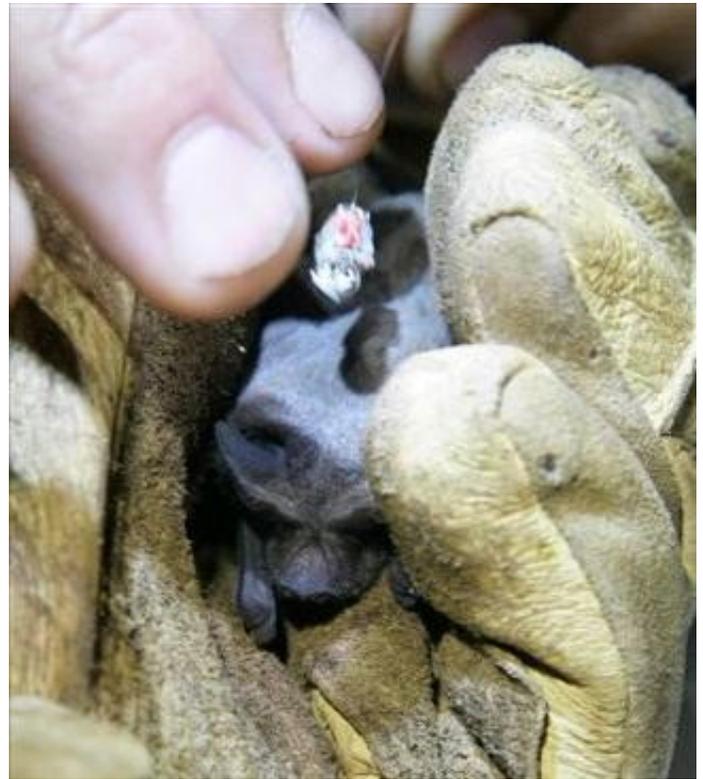
Harp trap being lowered to capture bats emerging from the Old Tunnel.



**Justin Foster and TPWD team
conducting bat research at
Old Tunnel WMA.**



Staff preparing to mark bats with transmitters and dye.



Bat receiving transmitter.

**PLANTS OF
TEXAS RANGELANDS**

Virtual Herbarium

**Our website has information on
297 rangeland plants.**

essmextension.tamu.edu/plantsdev/

**Report your
service hours
every month!**

**Email your
Volunteer Activity
Report form to Database Manager
Sandy Leyendecker
sandy325@windstream.net**



TEXAS FOREST SERVICE

Protecting and sustaining forests, trees and related natural resources

REPORT ARSON OR TIMBER THEFT
1-800-364-3470

New video details best watering methods for drought-stricken trees

With a forecast of triple-digit temperatures and no rain in sight, the trees in your yard likely need a little TLC, and water is the best way to show the love.

Texas Forest Service has released a video and companion information packet designed to help residents know how much and how often they should water their trees.

Facing one of the worst droughts in state history, trees across Texas already are showing signs of stress. Some are dropping leaves and branches while others have leaves that are wilting and turning yellow and brown. Some have even died. State tree experts say it's too soon to tell how many trees we may lose. Many have gone dormant in an act of self-preservation so it could be next spring before we know if they will make a comeback.

Until then, the most important thing for you to do is water — properly and efficiently.

"Trees are on the job 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They boost our property values. They shade your house, which cuts your electricity bill. They even clean the air you breathe and the water you drink," said John Giedraitis, urban forestry manager for Texas Forest Service.

"They give us so much. It's time for us to give them a little something back, especially now that they really need it."

View [Water your Trees! How to care for drought-stricken trees.](#)

Download [Tree Watering Tips: Caring for trees during extreme drought.](#)



activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

from David Langford



Texas Drought: A Fingerprint

blog.chron.com/climateabyss/2011/08/texas-drought-a-fingerprint/

Down by the Riverside Festival

October 1 9am-3pm

Free Fun and Education for all ages!



Walk with Chunker September 20

9:30A - On alternate Tuesdays chapter member Karen Millikan shares interesting facts about snakes and shows visitors how she cares for Chunker, her California king snake that resides at Riverside Nature Center. How does Karen make sure Chunker gets plenty of exercise? She takes him for a walk! Come learn about snakes while you enjoy a walk with Chunker. FREE



**Riverside Nature Center Weekly Fauna Census
8/19/2011**

An interesting day with four vireo species, three singing clearly, and a porcupine. While Cynthia was shopping at HEB after the count, she saw a zone-tailed hawk fly over. She jumped in her car and drove to RNC to see it there – that’s dedication to our checklist!

Cynthia Johnson Tom Schall
Marion Worthington Harriet Warren
Tom Collins



Look at that face! Porcupine at RNC.



White-eyed Vireo



Bell's Vireo



Yellow-throated Vireo



Red-eyed Vireo

Shirt and Merchandise Sales

It is time again for our Chapter Shirt Sale. We have t-shirts, field shirts for men and women, and the ever popular women's polo. We have some changes this year. T-shirts are now come in a new friendlier cut and colors, and our caps have a new style and design.

Another new item is a vehicle window decal with the Texas Master Naturalist dragonfly. We will have someone on hand wherever we are selling merchandise to apply the decals to your car or truck.

Watch for us at chapter meetings and class days. We have samples, order forms, caps, bags, and those new window decals ready and waiting for you.

The Hill Country Chapter Merchandise Team

from Tom Collins

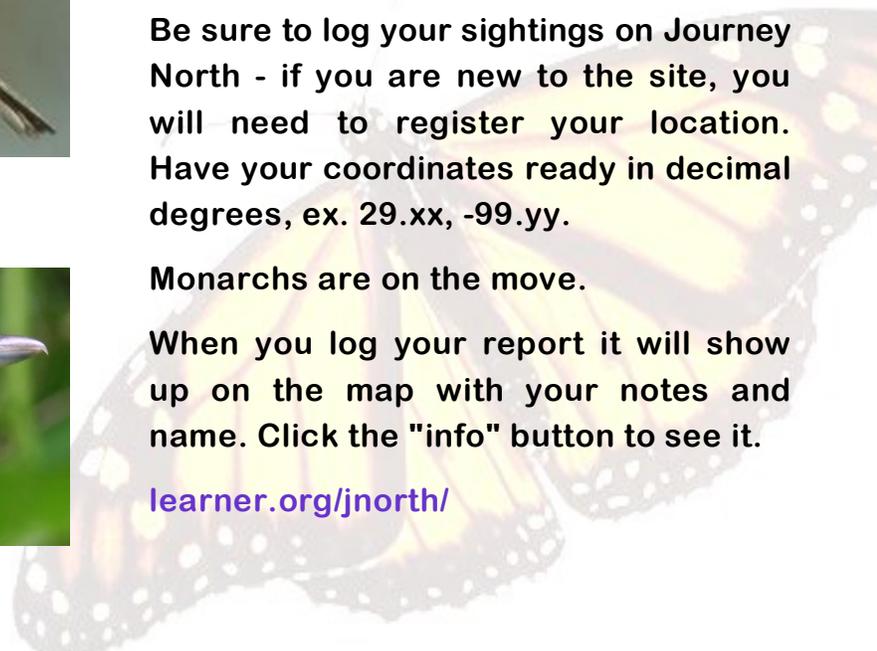
Monarch watchers:

Be sure to log your sightings on Journey North - if you are new to the site, you will need to register your location. Have your coordinates ready in decimal degrees, ex. 29.xx, -99.yy.

Monarchs are on the move.

When you log your report it will show up on the map with your notes and name. Click the "info" button to see it.

learner.org/jnorth/





“Conserving Our Rural Heritage”

Friday

12:00 Noon

Meet in Uvalde to caravan and/or carpool to Harris Ranch
additional instructions to follow

12:30pm

Field trip at Harris Ranch followed by dinner and campfire
begins promptly at 12:30

Saturday

7:30am - 9:00am

Breakfast at Southwest Texas Junior College

8:00am - 9:00am

Optional CEU session: Pesticide Laws and Regulations

9:00am - 5:00pm

2011 Farm & Range Forum



The Farm & Range Forum provides an ongoing dialog between rural landowners and urban conservationists.

In Texas, with 90+ percent of land in private ownership, conserving habitat for wildlife depends upon landowners who provide good stewardship, and so do clean water and pure air. In rapidly urbanizing Texas, city dwellers should understand the issues of rural landowners and the importance of open space and healthy farm and ranchlands so they will provide necessary political support. The Farm Bill, conservation programs, research funding, and tax-valuation incentives, for example, need the support of urban voters who ultimately benefit.

This year's forum theme is “Conserving Our Rural Heritage.” Throughout the decade, the underlying message of the forums has been “Managing to Make a Living” — acknowledging that landowners must be able to earn reasonable support from the land to sustain ownership, which is in the best interests of us all.

The first South Texas Farm & Range Forum was held in 2000. It continued annually until 2006, resuming in 2010. The first forum focused on the threatened state of quail. The 2010 forum, in Fredericksburg, examined “Sustaining the Hill Country — Now and for Future Generations.”

Contact Texas Wildlife Association 800-839-9453

T E X A S

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Hill Country Chapter

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Vern Crawford - 2010 New Class Representative

John Huecksteadt - Immediate Past President

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
TXMN.ORG/HILLCOUNTRY

We meet the fourth Monday of each month (excluding June and December) at 7:00p.m. in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

Join us at 6:30p.m. for a fun social half-hour.

We welcome anyone interested in our meeting topic or the Texas Master Naturalist program.

Questions about our chapter?

Email Koy Coffey

Director of Membership

kcoffer@texas-wildlife.org

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.



Texas Star
Lindheimera texana

The Texas Star is a monthly publication of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program.

News, stories, comments, and ideas are welcome.

Please contact Kristie Denbow, denbow@gvtc.com.



TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



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