

The Texas Star



Newsletter of the Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter

FEBRUARY MEETING ... I'M FOR THE HILL COUNTRY



A dynamic and visionary leader, **Christy Muse** co-founded the Hill Country Alliance (HCA) in 2005 to provide education, outreach, and opportunity for collaboration among the diverse stakeholders in the Hill Country region.

Issues that affect the entire region and its citizens include groundwater, surface water, open space, land fragmentation and over development of this multi-county area. Christy will talk about good conservation practices to protect



the region for the future, and how HCA works with landowners, developers, and governmental agencies. She will include a question and answer session for discussion of other concerns. Information about HCA is available on the website www.hillcountryalliance.org.

Join us Monday, February 27 at 7p.m. in the UGRA Lecture Hall. We gather at 6:30 to chat with members and guests during our social half-hour.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ... Priscilla Stanley



The Benefits of Being a TMN

Like many Hill Country residents, Jim and I grew up elsewhere. Jim had a head start on knowing about the Hill Country. He grew up in the country in West Texas, and vacationed and hunted in the Hill Country. I grew up in upstate New York where they have a lot more of something called "rain" which makes it easy to grow all kinds of trees, shrubs, and perennials. Since the town I grew up in was settled in 1661, folks did not talk about native plants, which had suffered from 300 years of development over and around them.

By 1996 Jim and I were looking forward to retirement and bought an eight acre lot in Gillespie County. It was a cedar and oak savanna native pasture. Even though I had read *Horticulture* magazine for thirty years, I did not recognize a single plant on it. I decided to start learning about our new world so

I joined the Native Plant Society of Texas and bought and read Jill Nokes' book *How To Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest*. I began volunteering at Riverside Nature Center when we moved here in 2000, and learned more about native plants. Robert Edmonson of the Texas Forest Service spent several hours on our property telling us about our trees, how to avoid oak wilt, and even about the cochineal scale on our prickly pear. We attended excellent classes on native grasses, water, and trees at Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve.

The Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter started in fall of 2002 with a class of thirty eager trainees. Suddenly we were learning about the background of the Hill Country; its furry, feathered, scaled, and aquatic residents; and how all the various pieces we had been learning fit together. We started learning how to read the land - what plants could tell us

Continued, page 2.

T E X A S



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

...mellow little bees that live in hollow trees.

Page 9.

Valdina Farms sinkhole salamander



Eurycea troglodytes
Bandera County

February
Volume 10
No. 2



THIS MONTH WE HONOR



<u>Milestones</u>	<u>2011 Recertification</u>	<u>Special Recertification</u>	<u>First Year Certification</u>
<i>1000 Hours - Gold</i>	<i>Mexican free-tailed bat</i>	<i>Mexican free-tailed bat</i>	<i>Dragonfly</i>
Martha Miesch	Tom Collins	Stephen Bishop Daneshu Clarke	Rheda Boardman Ann Carabin Richard Scott

Sooner or later, we sit down to a banquet of consequences.

Robert Louis Stevenson



Do you know?

The Hill Country is projected to add another 2 million people over the next four decades. Some counties, including Bandera, Comal, Hays, and Kendall, are expected to more than double in population by 2050.

Texas Water Development Board

President's message continued.

about the soil, prior management, the deer population, and much more. It was as if a green and brown landscape had suddenly turned into high-definition Technicolor! Seeing bushy bluestem and buttonbush meant that that spot was probably a seep or otherwise usually wet. Post oaks and blackjacks growing together identified a redland clay soil without having to do any digging.

As we continued to learn more with our fellow chapter members, thanks to the many excellent state and federal agency instructors, we realized that we could learn enough to share this information on nature and the beneficial management of natural areas with others, both in our chapter and beyond, as envisioned by the organization's founders. We each make this journey at our own pace and in our own areas of interest, whether with school children, adults, or landowners. We can each awaken a greater appreciation of nature and natural areas in others. Sadly, there are many fewer agency personnel trying to serve a rapidly growing Hill Country population. Our chapter can help these dedicated professionals serve more people in many areas. The more folks know about nature and natural areas, the more likely they are to develop appreciation for them and take better care of them.

An excellent example of the benefits of teaching others is our Texas Wildlife Association L.A.N.D.S. (Learning Across New Dimensions in Science) Volunteer Project (CC-12-A). Koy Coffey recently held a celebration to recognize the accomplishments of the L.A.N.D.S. program in teaching kindergarten through 12th grade youth about the wonders of nature and the benefits of natural areas.

Students have preparatory training in school and build on that with a field trip to a large ranch or other natural area. Both students and teachers are very enthusiastic about the program, especially the hands-on discoveries that the students make. This project offers great volunteer training, you can participate even if you have not worked with youth before. It also offers support and fellowship with our other TMN volunteers. Most of us can remember a time in our youth when we learned something so special that it stayed with us all these years. If you want to be part of this nature epiphany for young people, please email Project Coordinator Koy Coffey at kcoffer@texas-wildlife.org. We also have many other very worthwhile volunteer projects, but that is for another month.

ADVANCED TRAINING

**AT 12-003 INVADERS OF TEXAS**

Saturday, February 25, 8:30a to 4:30p, Cibolo Nature Center

At completion participants will be certified as Texas Invaders Citizen Scientists.

Registration required. \$20 covers class materials and lunch. <https://secure.cibolo.org/civicm/event/register?id=58&reset=1>.

AT 12-024 HILL COUNTRY ALLIANCE NATURAL RESOURCES

Monday, February 27, 7-8p, UGRA

February Chapter Meeting

AT 12-008 VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR BATS

Saturday, March 31

Volunteers interested in serving for any length of time are invited to attend training. The training session covers volunteer opportunities, operations, and an in-depth introduction to the bats of Texas. Incentives for volunteering include field trips to various bat sites in Texas and a cumulative award system based on hours worked.

Email Nyta Brown, nyta.brown@tpwd.state.tx.us to sign up for the volunteer training session. Volunteers are required to fill out an application, sign a volunteer work agreement, and pass a criminal background check. Space is limited and advance registration is required.

The newsletter's publication schedule does not allow for all AT events to be listed in each issue. Check email messages for AT announcements and check the chapter calendar on our website for available AT.



© Tom Schall

Hill Country Nature

a photography exhibit by Tom Schall

Kerr Arts & Cultural Center

March 8 through April 1

Public reception

March 10

1-3p

"All proceeds from the sale of my photos will be donated to Riverside Nature Center."

from Tom Collins



Make sure your local birds are represented in the Great Backyard Bird Count. They won't count unless YOU do!

The 15th annual GBBC takes place February 17-20.

Everything you need to know to participate in the count is on the website birdcount.org, including downloadable instructions, FAQs, and a how-to video.

Get a **regional list** of the birds you might see in your area in February so you can brush up on your identification skills.

Spotted Towhee's are reported all over the Hill Country – be one of the many Backyard Bird Counts to find and report yours.



T.H. Collins

Collins' Ranch Oasis 3/2011

Hill Country Chapter Master Naturalists On a Roll

Great things were achieved by Hill Country Master Naturalists in 2011. Here is a partial list:

- Our members reported over 21,000 volunteer hours in 2011.
- 11,000 individuals attended events that chapter members participated in last year.
- Almost 1,700 Hill Country acres were impacted in new chapter projects.
- Over 1/3 of our members certified or recertified in 2011.

Can we best this in 2012?



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

2011 ANNUAL REPORT
txmn.org/hillcountry/files/2011AnnualReport.pdf



Contributions to the to the Hill Country Chapter support our mission and the volunteer service we provide. Donate online at txmn.org/hillcountry/donate-to-hcmn-2/

from Martha Miesch



Attention all wildflower nerds, *oops*, enthusiasts!

Riverside Nature Center's volunteers are offering a new opportunity for nature lovers to add fun to the task of learning about 150 native wildflower species of the more than 500 commonly found in the Hill Country.

On first and third Wednesday mornings from 9 to 10a.m. beginning in March, volunteers will meet to walk and talk our way through the gardens of Riverside Nature Center. We will focus our attention on a few species at each session with shared learning derived from resources, individual observations, and hands-on opportunities. We will observe and document changes in these plants through the months from "cradle to grave", or to be more precise, from rosettes to gleaned seeds.



Our first session will be conducted on Wednesday, March 7 at 9a.m. We will meet on the back deck of the visitor's center, weather permitting. If you would like to participate, please e-mail Barbara Lowenthal at beltex@ktc.com or Julie Clay at jbrazaitis@aol.com with your contact information. Bring a copy of Marshall Enquist's [Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country](#) and a magnifying glass if you have them, as well as paper and pencil for notes. Handouts will be provided to help you start a personal notebook. We will begin to observe and document a few species with guidance from experienced volunteers.

On second and fourth Wednesdays, volunteers may choose to further their learning through hands-on maintenance of the gardens acquiring skills in planting, pruning, and thinning, when needed. Wildflowers can be invasive too. Project KR-02-D is for these Wednesday morning volunteer activities if you are a chapter member.

Hope you can join this fun group!

Jim Stanley's

Hill Country Naturalist



Nature is Interesting Even in Winter

A non-naturalist friend of mine remarked the other day that, "This must be a slow season for you naturalists," which I guess seemed like a reasonable statement given the fact that we were looking at a rather bare, drought-stricken, winter landscape. But in fact, it is a lot more interesting than my friend realized. Here are

just some of the interesting things I have observed in the past few weeks.

First, not everything is brown and leafless. In addition to live oaks and cedar (Ashe juniper), we have Texas mountain laurel, evergreen sumac, cenizo, and all the native cacti and succulents (yuccas, agaves). The rosettes of many of our favorite wildflowers such as bluebonnets, Engelmann daisy, standing cypress, and big red sage are green now just waiting for longer days to begin their growth spurt.

Where grazers haven't eaten it faster than it can grow, Texas wintergrass (some call it speargrass) is responding to rains and is greening up nicely. This year I have not seen the rescuegrass and other bromes that usually begin growing this time of year.

As I watch lesser goldfinches at our thistle seed feeder, I reflect on the fact that I haven't seen any American goldfinches this year, and didn't see any last year either, although they have been abundant in previous years. We had pine siskins a few weeks ago, but they seem to have moved on for now.



Just a few days ago we had our usual winter flock of cedar waxwings attacking the cedar berries. They are always fun to watch as they descend on a bush in mass and depart together the same way, chattering to each other the whole time.

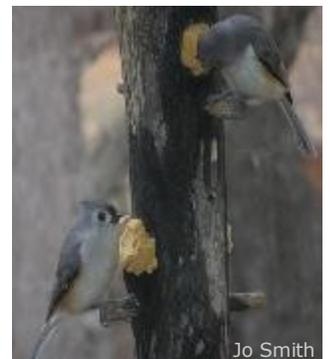


Flocks of robins seem to come and go. They were challenging the cedar waxwings a few days ago for the cedar berries, but the robins also spent a lot of time on the ground finding fallen berries, while the waxwings stayed in the trees. The robins appear to love the re-circulating stream to bathe in, sometimes crowding each other for the best bathing spots.

I noticed a male cardinal bathing in a spot that was apparently a favorite spot of the robins also, as several robins appeared to be standing around watching the cardinal splash around. The cardinal stood his ground and the robins had to wait their turns.

I also rediscovered how much titmice really love peanut butter. I have a hanging piece of cedar with holes drilled in it that I fill with peanut butter or suet, especially in cold weather. A few days ago I decided to refill the holes that had been empty for several weeks, and then noticed that within five minutes of returning from filling the holes with peanut butter, a titmouse was eagerly pecking away.

I drove past a friend's house the other day and noticed him standing by his car, so I pulled in to chat. As I drove up, he never turned his head to



Jo Smith

Continued.

look at me, although I know he knew who it was, and even when I stopped, he remained motionless looking ahead in front of his car, finally pointing to the front of the car. As I followed his point, I saw a roadrunner, not five feet in front of him just slowly turning her head back and forth obviously looking for something to eat. Then, after perhaps spying something behind us, she took off at a moderate pace almost stepping on my friend's toes.

The normal breeding season for white-tailed deer is November and December, so the rut should be over by now. But I just saw a buck with his head down sniffing the ground in the usual posture when they are stalking a doe. I guess his calendar didn't show him the season was over.



Jim Stanley

Finally, yesterday we noticed a bat roosting on our porch, hanging from the limestone rock near the ceiling. I don't know for sure what kind of bat it was (probably a Mexican free-tailed), but I am told that some bats overwinter here and can be active on warmer nights. We wished we could have communicated to the little critter that we had just put up a bat house out front. Maybe he found it as he didn't return the next morning.

For a naturalist, the Natural World is always interesting.

Until next time...

Jim Stanley is a Texas Master Naturalist and author of the book "Hill Country Landowner's Guide". Email Jim at jstmn@ktc.com. His columns can be read at hillcountrynaturalist.org.

from Kip Kiphart

This Great Blue Heron had a feast, cleaning out the fish from my water feature. The bird was at the water feature intermittently throughout the day, and I spent much of the day trying to get photos. Two were shot through a window.



The last one was taken when the heron flew from my place to a tree across the fence.



Try as I might, I could not get a photo at the water feature. The heron came back the next morning to see if he missed anything (he hadn't)



and again two weeks later to see if there was any new fish (which there weren't).

Riverside Nature Center Weekly Fauna Census

1/20/2012

Swamp Sparrow was a lifer for a couple of our volunteers.

Ronald Hood
Cynthia Johnson
Harriet Warren
Tom Collins



Collins' Ranch Hill Country Oasis

Enjoy viewing over 166 photos of visitors to Tom Collins' ranch in Kerr County.

[picasaweb.google.com/
CollinsHillCountryOasis](http://picasaweb.google.com/CollinsHillCountryOasis)



Dedicated members of the 2011 and 2012 Boards of Directors. Fourth row: John Huecksteadt, Steve Clyburn, Floyd Trefny, Bob McKinley. Third row: Tom Hynes, Paula Smith, Reidun Hilleman. Second row: Priscilla Stanley, Koy Coffey, Cathy Downs, Michelle Haggerty (TPWD advisor). First row: Susan Longacre, Sally Garrett, Daneshu Clarke, Phyllis Muska.



Another great group of members receiving recertification and milestones at our January meeting. Back row: Ernest Smith, Daneshu Clarke, Cynthia Burgin (1,000 hours), Jim Burgin (500 hours), Sally Garret, Tom Hynes. Front row: Kathleen Mundy, Rebecca Flack, Peggy Robinson (250 hours), Tara Randle.

handheld apps for naturalists



[Winter Survival Kit](#)
Texas Extension
Disaster Education
Network



Flashlight by Rik



Texas Historical
Markers



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

WORTH *Watching*



from Paula Smith

The Batcopter in Texas

A research team at Boston University has designed an aerial vehicle to study how bats fly together but never collide.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rZXx3HXJ-M

from Paula Smith

Another Kind of Hummingbird

So impressive that it earned a 2011 Breakthrough Award from *Popular Mechanics*, and *Time* named it one of the best inventions of 2011.

www.reuters.com/video/2011/03/02/hummingbird-robot-the-future-of-high-tec?videoId=191321730

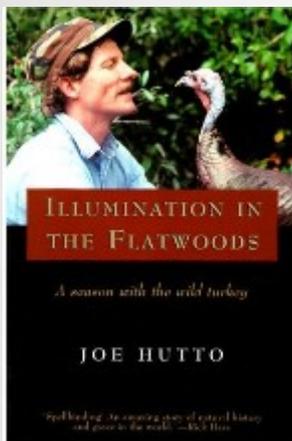
My Life as a Turkey

After a local farmer left a bowl of eggs on Joe Hutto's front porch, his life was forever changed.

www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/my-life-as-a-turkey/full-episode/7378/

Nature of Reading

BOOKS FOR NATURALISTS



Illumination
in the Flatwoods
Joe Hutto
1998

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

SPECIAL DELIVERY! MAGAZINE'S NEW DIGITAL EDITION

Be our guest and enjoy the **digital edition** of the January/February *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine for free.

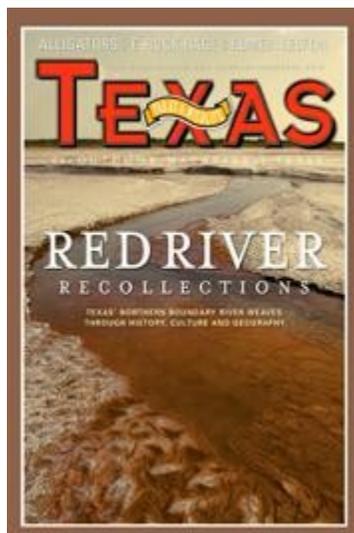
It can either be downloaded or viewed online.

Beginning in 2012, digital editions will be provided as an added benefit to magazine subscribers.

It's a first for us, so we want to make this first issue available to everyone.

We welcome your feed back to our staff:

magazine
[@tpwd.state.tx.usfeedback](mailto:tpwd.state.tx.usfeedback)





TEXAS ELBOW BUSH

Texas elbow bush *Forestiera pubescens* is a member of the Olive Family native to the Edwards Plateau. It is also called Spring Herald since it is one of the first shrubs to bloom in the spring. We have had an elbow bush for nine years. This year it began blooming on January 30 with many delicate greenish-yellow flowers.

The flowers attracted an amazing number of mellow little bees that live in hollow trees. These early flowers are important because they provide pollen and nectar to bees as they prepare to increase their numbers for spring and summer. Butterflies are also grateful to find such a good nectar source so early. These tiny flowers are more obvious since the leaves come out later.



by Priscilla Stanley

This shrub is dioecious, meaning that male and female flowers are borne on separate plants, so it takes at least two or more elbow bushes to produce fruit. Since we have only one elbow bush, that might explain why our shrub does not make the small purple-black fruit favored by birds or perhaps our shrub is a male.

Elbow bush grows as a six feet shrub with arching branches in an open growth habit. It is easy to identify in the field because its leaves and side branches are opposite (not alternate, which is the more common arrangement) and the side branches come off of the main stems at almost a right angle (like an elbow), which is uncommon in woody plants as well. This shrub might need protection from deer and other browsers, especially during drought. Elbow bush is available at some native nurseries.

There are so many native plants in the Hill Country that learning them can seem daunting at first. Learning one at a time makes it easy.

UGRA'S 9th Annual River Clean Up

Summer is months away, but please mark your calendar and save the date!

**Saturday, July 28
8 AM**

The UGRA webpage has been updated with information about the 2012 River Clean Up. We are accepting pre-registration forms, so fill yours out today!

ugra.org/annualrivercleanup.html

UGRA is holding a River Clean Up T-shirt design contest for Kerr County students, 6th through 12th grade. Visit the web page to learn more about the contest and the \$100 prize.

If you have any questions or would like to pre-register for the River Clean Up, please contact either Tara Bushnoe tbushnoe@ugra.org or Travis Linscomb tlinscomb@ugra.org at UGRA 830-896-5445.

from John Huecksteadt

NRCS Texas has new Prescribed Burn Education Tool

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas has released a new video,



Prescribed Fire: A historical tool with new opportunities.

The video serves as an education tool to help community officials understand the importance of prescribed fire as an economical brush management practice for the ranching community as well as a fuel mitigation practice to protect cities and communities.

Look for "Commissioners Burn Ban Video" on the NRCS channel.

Riverside Nature Center Fauna Census 2011 Annual Report

The data and information in this report has been collected as part of an on-going project study sponsored by the Hill Country Master Naturalist and Riverside Nature Center. The primary goal of the project has been to develop a comprehensive inventory of fauna seen or heard at Riverside Nature Center.

The protocol the Census Team follows is to meet weekly (Friday) at Riverside Nature Center and walk a fixed route (see Fauna Census Route Map) for a typical one hour period. All species seen and heard are recorded by the Team Leader or his designated back-up. Upon completion of the weekly census, the data for birds is entered in Cornell eBird data base.

YEAR 2011 SUMMARY

The drought of 2011 had a significant impact on the number of fauna species and total individual counts recorded for the Arthropoda Orders. The greatest impact was on the Order Lepidoptera (Butterfly and Moths) and Odonata (Dragonfly and Damselfly). The Aves (Birds) Class did not appear to be impacted nor were the other studied Classes – Mammalia, Reptilia, and Amphibia.

The census team conducted 49 weekly census Fridays out of the possible 52 weeks. Records are maintained on participants at each census and a total of 219 participants were recorded or we averaged about 4.5 participants per trip. This is way up from previous years (2010 = 2.7/trip and lower in earlier years).

BIRD DATA – Class Aves

eBird Data	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007*	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Species entered for calendar year	119	95	90	77	71	7	5	1	31	6	0	1
Species total since 1995 at EOY	154	135	127	115	104	82	81	80	80	69	67	67
eBird Submissions	97	88	65	74	48	2	1	1	1	2	0	1
Individual count	6433	5410	2586	2724	1247	16						

* 2007 is an incomplete year due to the Fauna Study starting in April 2007

Most common bird: Northern Cardinal 92%; Carolina Wren 90%; Carolina Chickadee 84%

BUTTERFLY & MOTH DATA – Order Lepidoptera

Spreadsheet Data	2011#	2010	2009	2008	2007*	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Species entered for calendar year	24	43	44	43	59							
New species	1	1	2	8								
Species total since 1995 at EOY**	80	79	78	70								
Individual count	254	631	919	793	1158							

** There remain 9 species in the historical records still requiring documentation.

Most common Butterfly: Pipevine Swallowtail – 53%; Clouded Skipper – 30%; Reakirt's Blue – 25%

DRAGONFLY AND DAMSELFLY DATA – Order Odonata

Spreadsheet Data	2011#	2010	2009	2008	2007*	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Species entered for calendar year	10	11	15	23	24							
New species	0	2	4	5	24							
Species total since 1995 at EOY	35	35	33	29	24							
Individual count	60	151	166	236	209							

#2011 species and individual totals were down almost 50% due to the drought.

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN – HERPS – Class – Reptilia and Amphibia

Spreadsheet Data	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007*	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Species entered for calendar year	7	8	7	8	9	5***						
New species	0	1	4	2	9							
Species total since 1995 at EOY	21	21	20	16	14							
Individual count	238	187	190	221	123							

*** Historical records with no documented dates

MAMMALS – Class Mammalia

Spreadsheet Data	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007*	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Species entered for calendar year	5	7	5	4	4	11***						
New species	1	1	1	0	0							
Species total since 1995 at EOY	14	13	12	11	11							
Individual count	223	263	234	143	53							

Perhaps the most amazing result was that we added 19 new bird species during 2011, bringing the site total to 154 species. This is almost a 15% increase which is remarkable since I felt we had already reached 90% of what I thought was possible or about 150.

The other very important sighting was a Kerr County butterfly record – *Statira Sulphur Aphrissa s. Statira*. This brings a total of six Kerr County Butterfly Records reported from RNC. The value of this urban natural center is being documented in these records.



FINAL SUMMARY

One outstanding activity needing to be completed is the RNC Nature Checklist. I have plans to update and release a 2nd edition checklist using data through the end of 2011.

It remains to be seen what and how this data will be used now and in the future, and of what value is it? One of the project goals was to help in planning future activities based on what was learned. It was also hoped that people serving in docent roles could use the data to better educate themselves and visitors. The project has produced some interesting data and has added to the fauna records of Kerr County and the Cornell eBird Data Base used by ornithologists world wide. There are significant holes in much of the areas especially in the Arthropods and Ichthyology (study of fish). There is a need to have on-going study of all the fauna and flora of the site. The project will complete the original five-year goal in April 2012.

Submitted by:

Thomas H. Collins

Project leader

Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter

It's easy to report your hours. Download and fill in the Activity Report form, electronically sign and date it, and email to Database Manager Sandy Leyendecker, sandy325@windstream.net.

Field Surveys Opportunity at Selah

Biological Information Team Central Texas Project

The goal for this project is to get professionals and hobbyists in the field for some fun botanizing, herping, birding, and searching for inverts as well as organizing biological assessment teams for future surveys on private lands within Central Texas. Another important goal for this project is to help fill gaps in the Texas Natural Diversity Database. This database, maintained by TPWD, tracks rare species and habitats throughout the state and data is greatly needed. There are four survey teams for this project: Plants, Reptiles and Amphibians, Birds, and Invertebrates.

The project begins Friday, April 13, 2012 at 7p.m. and runs through Sunday, April 15, 2012.

Agenda: April 13th - 7p - Project Overview – possible evening surveys
April 14th - (time tbd) Surveys
April 15th - (time tbd) Continue surveys

Location: SELAH Bamberger Ranch, Johnson City

Lodging: The facility is a beautiful bunkhouse with beds with men on one side and women on the other. Bring your own linens, pillow, and towels (I bring ear plugs, just in case I need them). Bring your own food - kitchen facilities available.

For more information, please contact marsha.may@tpwd.state.tx.us or 512-389-8062.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you will be joining us and which team you would like to be on. Thank you.

Sincerely,

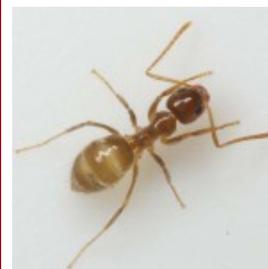
Marsha May

Texas Nature Trackers

Wildlife Diversity Program

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept

4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744



Raspberry crazy ant.
Photo Mike Quinn

from David Langford

**Crazy ants
making
tracks
through
South Central
Texas**

[Read the story.](#)

Chapter members and several Kendall County Partnership for Parks (KCPP) Board members get the 2012 service season off to a great start.

The team readied James Kiehl River Bend Park's bluebird trail and replenished wildlife habitat brush piles. L-r: Rheda Boardman, Norma Bruns, Stephen Bishop, Tara Randle, Ruth McArthur, Garry Speir, and Reidun Hilleman. Kristie Denbow was behind the camera.





WILDLIFE FOR LUNCH WEBINAR SERIES

2012 WEBINARS FROM NOON-1 P.M.

IT'S EASY!
On the day of the webinar, simply go to <https://texas-wildlife.webex.com> and click on the title of the webinar you wish to attend. The webinar series provides sound, science-based wildlife management information delivered by experts to you in the comfort of your own home or office.

NO NEED TO TRAVEL!
Each web-based seminar is fully interactive and allows you to engage the experts, make comments and ask questions during the course of the presentation.

If you cannot make the live webinar:
Each webinar is archived and available for viewing on the Texas Wildlife Association website.

QUESTIONS?
Contact Courtney Brittain at cbrittain@texas-wildlife.org or 210-826-2904



www.texas-wildlife.org



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

JANUARY 19
Prescribed Burning for Wildlife
Dale Rollins

FEBRUARY 16
Feral Hogs
Billy Higginbotham

MARCH 15
Pond Management
Michael Masser

APRIL 19
Riparian Management 201
Sky Lewey

MAY 17
Integrating Cattle and Wildlife on Small Acreage
Larry Pierce

JUNE 21
Ranch Photography for Fun and Profit
John Martin

JULY 19
West Texas Wildlife Management
Louis Harveson

AUGUST 16
Rainwater Harvesting
Billy Kniffen

SEPTEMBER 20
Deer Nutritional Requirements and Implications for Management
Dave Hewitt

OCTOBER 18
Native Prairie Restoration
Forrest Smith

NOVEMBER 15
Endangered Species Management
Brian Hays

DECEMBER 20
Forestry Management for Wildlife
Chris Comer

What are those purple boxes?

Beginning in March, Texas Forest Service will be surveying ash trees across the state for signs of the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect that kills its host.

The survey is designed to help tree experts determine if the beetle also has spread to Texas.

Large, purple traps will be hung in select ash trees in Central and East Texas. They'll be checked in June and August and then removed.

More than 700 survey traps will be set out in 71 counties this year.

Our four counties are not in the survey, but you may see traps in surrounding counties.

For more information on the emerald ash borer and the trapping program, visit emeraldashborer.info. Emerald Ash Borer photos are available on the Texas Forest Service [facebook](#) page.



T E X A S



Hill Country Chapter
a 501(c)(3) corporation

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.

Everyone is welcome.

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.

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LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE!
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Questions about our chapter?

Email Eileen Gotke,
director of membership
gotke@hctc.net



Texas Star
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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.

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