

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter

MARCH MEETING ... WHAT IS NATURAL?

A trained horticulturalist with acres of nonprofit and commercial experience in the Hill Country, **Eric Lautzenheiser** will present facts, folklore, and lies about the Texas Hill Country landscape. Lautzenheiser, the Nature Areas Superintendent for the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department will pose a number of interesting questions:

- Is "cedar" native?
- Where did all the KR bluestem come from?
- How does today's Hill Country differ from that of pre-European settlement?



- What has been the role of humans in the evolution of our environment?
- Can we restore our lands to what was?
 - What are the primary considerations when undertaking restoration?
 - What are the dangers of using the words "natural" and "native"?

Join us Monday, March 26 at 7p.m. in the UGRA Lecture Hall. Invite friends and family to our fun, informative meeting. We gather at 6:30 to chat with members and guests during our social half-hour.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ... Priscilla Stanley

Celebrate the Resilience of Texas Native Plants

We have survived a drought of record for the past year, and fortunately so have nearly all of our native plants. Remarkably we still have an abundance of both plants and species inside our one-acre, high-fenced homestead area. One of the joys of being a Master Naturalist is we are tuned into the natural world and observe closely the ongoing seasonal changes. Thus we can marvel at how we are enjoying even greater plant diversity than usual during a drought of record. The drought seems to favor forbs over the more diverse native grasses appearing in a wet year, probably because forbs, as early-succession plants, thrive on the bare ground caused by the drought.

Seven years ago we planted bluebonnet seeds in a pasture grass area inside the high-fence, and they bloomed well for two years and then stopped.

This year they came up in the fall from seed that had been waiting in the ground for five years and are now thriving bushy plants, soon to bloom. They have even prevailed over the vetch that threatened to smother them until the bluebonnets grew above it. Texas weather seems to be different every year. For any given year, some natives will thrive, others will wait it out for different conditions, and a third group reliably returns regardless of the weather. Possibly the bluebonnets are doing better in the drought because they don't have to compete with tall stands of little bluestem and silver bluestem in that area.

I enjoy wandering through the yard to see the changes that come with each new day. A colony of feathery-leaved Prairie bishop's-weed *Bifora americana* appeared in our buffalograss front lawn in early January. As an annual, these tough plants were growing from seed

Continued, page 2.

T E X A S



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

They're coming!
Page 7.

Gray wolf *Canis lupus*

Gillespie County

March 2012
Volume 10
No. 3



THIS MONTH WE HONOR



<u>Milestones</u>	<u>2011 Recertification</u>	<u>First Year Certification</u>
1000 Hours - Gold Lars Nielsen	<i>Mexican free-tailed bat</i> Kristie Denbow	<i>Dragonfly</i> Joan Broussard
500 Hours - Brushed Silver Norma Bruns	Ronald Hood Sandy Pena	
250 Hours - Bronze Steve Clyburn Paula Smith	Glenn Randow Gracie Waggener Harriet Warren	

President's message continued.

during the drought. In an earlier life, we had a more typical suburban yard. Now that we live in the country however, we let Mother Nature provide some plants for us. After all she's been at this a lot longer than we have. Thus I didn't see a bunch of weeds in the lawn, but rather larval plants for black swallowtail butterflies. Similarly, the fine seeds of pink evening primrose *Oenothera speciosa* blew into the lawn where they grew like a ground cover, even though we don't water the buffalograss. Fortunately in this case I see a larval plant for the charming sphinx moth, and thus a perfect place to put the tomato hornworms that occasionally appear on Jim's tomato plants.

This year the recent rains seem to have awakened more pink, blue, and white daisy-like windflowers *Anemone heterophylla* than we have ever seen before. They are in various new locations, all planted by Mother Nature. Crow poison *Nothoscordum bivalve* with its bright white flowers is having a great year as well. The little rain that we had has brought the coral honeysuckle vines into bloom so the hummingbirds will have a favored nectar source when they arrive, even in this drought. Always an early bloomer, golden groundsel *Senecio obovatus* opened its dependable, bright yellow daisy-like flowers in mid-February. I put in two groundsel plants nine years ago in a natural area in the light shade of some small live oaks where they have gently spread to form a golden colony.

As of February 29, wild red columbine *Aquilegia canadensis*, Texas greeneyes *Berlandiera texana* and blackfoot daisy *Melampodium leucanthum* all have buds that are close to blooming. This early blooming is facilitated by these plants being evergreen most years. On March 2, the Mexican plum tree *Prunus mexicana* was fully clothed in white blossoms for our mellow bees that live in hollow trees and are attracted by its sweet fragrance. Despite its name, it is a Texas native tree. It will make small fruits in late summer and fall that are enjoyed by both birds and small mammals.



Mexican plum has very showy, fragrant flowers.

We enjoy our native plants not just because they are well-adapted to our Hill Country alkaline soil and often-dry weather, but for the abundant wildlife they support with their flowers, fruit, and seeds, as well as the habitat they provide. I hope you are enjoying the early spring display of your native plants as well. If you are looking to add some native plants to your landscape, we expect a good selection of native perennials and shrubs to be available at the Earth Day Native Plant Sale & Nature Festival on Saturday, April 28 at Riverside Nature Center.

ADVANCED TRAINING **AT 12-032 WHAT'S NATURAL?**

Monday, March 26, 7p, UGRA Lecture Hall
March chapter meeting.

AT 12-008 VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR BATS

Saturday, March 31

The training session covers volunteer opportunities, operations, and an in-depth introduction to the bats of Texas. Email Nyta Brown, nyta.brown@tpwd.state.tx.us to sign up for the volunteer training session. Space is limited and advance registration is required.

AT 12-030 RIPARIAN GRAZING WORKSHOPS

Monday-Tuesday, April 9-10, Decatur

Riparian Grazing Workshops Sponsored by Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.

The course will focus on proven grazing management strategies that enhance riparian structure and function.

Registration: Required. Call 830-278-6810.

AT 12-031 RIPARIAN GRAZING WORKSHOPS

Thursday-Friday, April 12-13, San Angelo

Registration: Required. Call 830-278-6810.

AT 12-033 FORB ID CLASS

Thursday, April 12, 9a-12p, RNC

John Huecksteadt teaches forbs identification.

AT 12-034 TREE AND SHRUB ID CLASS

Saturday, May 5, 9a-12p, RNC

Jim Stanley teaches tree and shrub identification.

YOU CAN HELP

TPWD uses our activity reports for grant applications.

Activity Reports must be filled out uniformly for our hours to be counted.

It looks awkward when the database manager needs to correct reports.

We want your hours to count!

Please help us submit accurate reports by completing your monthly activity report properly.

1. Give **specific dates** for all impacts – direct contacts, indirect contacts, acreage, and new trail miles.
2. Use **the project code and the project name** when reporting hours.
3. **Use ink** when writing out your reports, do not use pencil.
4. **Use a new form** for each month, do not reuse a form and erase or scratch out past monthly hours

Thanks for your help!

Kerrville River Walk Trail Project

Volunteer Project KR-02-H

Riverside Nature Center is working with Schreiner University on plans for a comprehensive survey along the proposed trail route. The survey will identify beneficial plants that need to be moved and saved, and others that will eventually need to be removed because they are invasive or harmful to the environment.

We want to educate our community and visitors about the river, its ecosystem functions, protection of riparian environment, wildlife associated with the river, and associated conservation issues.

Water is the life-blood of our community, and we are all aware that it is a finite resource.

The river trail is an opportunity for us to increase awareness of the likelihood of future, chronic shortages if prudent steps are not taken soon, and to increase community commitment to protecting our most precious natural resource.

Ready to help? Call Project Coordinator Susan Longacre at 830-367-5197 to learn about current and planned activities.



Examples of "before and after" plant restoration after trail work.

from Gene Smith

Portraits of Wildflowers

portraitsofwildflowers.wordpress.com



I have enjoyed this website over recent months and would like to pass it on to our members. This website is published by Steven Schwartzman from Round Rock. He presents photographs of native Texas plants daily. His emphasis is on the photographs themselves, and occasionally takes time to explain the techniques he uses to accomplish the photo. He also presents information about the plants. The website allows one to sign up for an email subscription where the latest topic will arrive in your inbox. I hope you enjoy this site as much as I have.

A new Bird Census in Kendall County!

Master Naturalists and fellow birders are invited to participate in the Joshua Springs Park & Preserve monthly bird census.

Carolyn Bean leads this exciting new census on the first Monday of each month.

Join Carolyn and other fellow chapter members as they observe and record bird species in the 365-acre park and natural area.

Grab your binoculars and join the fun!

Joshua Springs Park & Preserve is located at 716 FM 289, about halfway between Boerne and Comfort.

Please contact Carolyn at
curione@yahoo.com
or 830-278-0233 to get involved.

Project code KL-04-C.





**Do We Really Have Any
“Natural Areas” Anymore?**

Part of the mission statement of Texas Master Naturalist is “...to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas...” But the question is sometimes asked, “Are there any natural areas left?” And the answer, like the answer to most questions about nature, begins with, “It depends...”

If your definition of a natural area is an area that has been completely unaffected by modern man, then the answer is probably, “No.” There are no

areas in Texas that are completely unchanged from the time before the first Europeans arrived. There are no areas that could be accurately described as “wilderness”. Even the Native Americans altered the landscape somewhat.

Could we return places to their prehistoric condition? Again, I think the answer is no. To do so would require we eliminate livestock (since these animals are not native), remove all fences, bring back bison, wolves, bears and all other native animals, convert farmland and cut-over forests back to their original condition, and probably the hardest of all, replace all of the soil lost to erosion caused by man. Then of course we wouldn't have enough to eat!



Camp of the Lipans, Theodore Gentilz, 1840s.

So we don't have any truly natural areas left, at least by prehistoric standards. But we do have natural areas by today's standards. These modern habitats, while not exactly the same as the earlier habitats, can nonetheless be healthy, sustainable, and productive. Most all ranchland and other rural land not converted to farmland could be considered a natural area.

Good land stewardship today involves applying basic principles of land management to produce habitats as close as possible to the theoretical ideal habitats that existed here before Europeans arrived.

These basic principles have to do with diversity and sustainability.



Diversity, in its simplest form, means having as complete a collection of native flora and fauna as possible. Aldo Leopold described this as “keeping all the cogs and wheels” before we begin tinkering with nature. In theory, that means that if a certain plant or animal was part of the local ecosystem before settlement, a healthy habitat today would also include that species. Obviously, we can't quite get there as some species are now extinct or nearly so and others would not be acceptable to us

Continued.

today, e.g. wolves. But the principle still holds that a healthy habitat today would contain as many of the original plants and animals as possible.

What does not count as healthy diversity is the addition of species that were not present in earlier times, exotic plants and animals. The introduction of non-native species into an ecosystem can be as destructive, if not more so, than the elimination of a species. Introduction of one exotic species into an ecosystem in which it did not evolve often results in the species having nothing to control its numbers, and thus becoming invasive.

Sustainability means all consumers, carnivores and herbivores, never consume more of their food source than can be replaced, that no species is eliminated, and that no species becomes invasive. A habitat cannot be healthy if it cannot exist over a long period of time. Bison, wolves, and prairie grasses coexisted for a very long time.

What we know is landowners who make management decisions based on these principles and with an eye on what the land could potentially look like, avoid the common problems of overgrazing, overbrowsing, cedar encroachment, erosion, and exotic invasion. In time their property becomes a truly healthy natural area. A sustainable, productive native habitat.

Well-managed properties contribute to the local economy, the beauty of the landscape, and the efficiency of water capture.

Most all rural property in the Hill Country either is or can indeed become a healthy natural area in time if managed properly. Farmland and non-native pastures would not be considered natural areas, but of course they provide an important service... we all like to eat.

Until next time...

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



Tom Collins reports a female black-chinned hummingbird feeding at salvias on his ranch in Kerr County. Time to put out the feeders!

From Susan Longacre
Hydrogen Fuel from Sunlight
An Artificial Leaf

Read the story:
<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2011/03/artificial-leaf/>



Ruth McArthur, chapter member and Kendall County Partnership for Parks (KCPP) board member, monitors KCPP's nest box trail at James Kiehl River Bend Park (JKRB). JKRB is located on the Guadalupe River near Comfort. Ruth reported a completed nest and four eastern bluebird eggs on March 6. Could this be a banner year for bluebirds? KCPP installed the trail in 2007, and eastern bluebirds and other native species have nested each year.



Volunteer for Riverside Nature Center's Earth Day Celebration & Native Plant Sale

Saturday April 28 8:00am – 3:00 pm

We begin recruiting our Class of 2012 in April, so this is a wonderful time to have lots of friendly, helpful chapter members volunteering in our shirts and wearing our badges.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Hill Country Chapter Table
- Plant Docents
- Plant Cashiers
- Plant loaders
- Parking
- Refreshments
- Kids Nature Crafts
- Cleanup

Report volunteer hours under KR-02-A for Youth and Adult Education at Riverside Nature Center.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please e-mail Priscilla Stanley, jpbstan@ktc.com or call 830-257-2094.

Many thanks for considering volunteering for this event.



First Butterflies Coming!

Millions of monarchs are about to take to the sky and begin their journey north.

Is your habitat ready?

learner.org/jnorth/monarch/spring2012/update030112.html#news



Hill Country Nature

photography by Tom Schall

Tom is donating all proceeds from the sale of his photos to Riverside Nature Center.

Kerr Arts & Cultural Center
Showing March 8 through April 1

Here's a new beetle family of Texas website!

False Blister Beetles
(Oedemeridae)
of Texas

texasento.net/TXOedemeridae.html

False blister beetles also known as "pollen feeding beetles" are frequently found sitting on flowers and often come to lights.

Mike Quinn, Austin
Texas Entomology
<http://texasento.net>





Native Plant
OF THE MONTH

BY
PRISCILLA
STANLEY

HOW TO SAVE YOUR NATIVE TREES

Even though it has rained a bit for most of us recently, many trees are still suffering from the effects of the extreme drought they went through last year. Texas Forest Service reports last year's drought was worse than any single year of the famous Drought of the 1950s. Thus foresters are unable to make predictions on the likelihood for trees to die or recover based on previous comparable drought data.

What to do: What happened last year is behind us, hopefully your trees are still convalescing. Foresters indicate the best thing you can do for your trees now is provide supportive care, which means watering trees when the soil under them is dry.

★ Texas Forest Service (TFS) suggests taking a screwdriver with a six or eight inch blade and seeing if the blade can be easily pushed fully into the soil under the dripline of your tree, which is under the outer edge of the leaf canopy. If the blade goes in easily, then the soil is sufficiently moist.

If the blade doesn't go into the soil fully, then the soil is dry, and TFS recommends putting one inch of water around the dripline of the tree and a few feet toward the trunk, as well as a few feet beyond the dripline where the feeder roots are concentrated.

You can use a long soaker hose placed in a serpentine pattern to water this area. TFS indicated that a soaker hose takes about **four hours** to put out the one inch of water that an established native tree **needs each week** during a drought. Spreading two to three inches of mulch under the tree can help keep moisture in the soil. Do **not** let the mulch touch the trunk or fungus might girdle the tree and kill it.

Spanish oaks and blackjacks are especially sensitive to drought and benefit substantially from periodic watering.

If you have newly planted trees, they may need to be watered up to three times per week using a five gallon bucket with small holes drilled in the bottom. Again, use the screwdriver test to be sure that you watered deeply enough so dry soil will not wick away much of the water from your new tree.

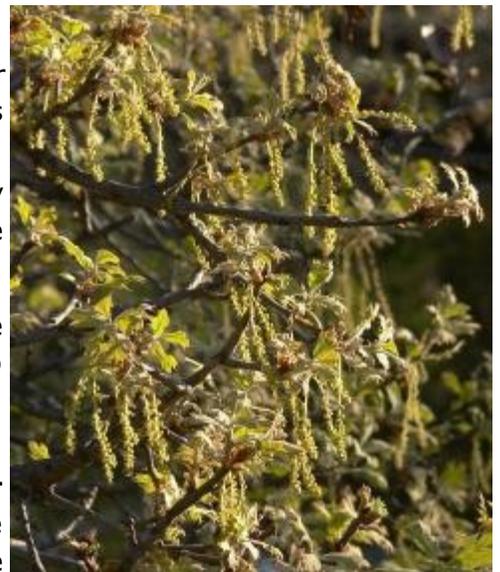
What **NOT** to do:

1. Do not fertilize your tree. Your tree is already stressed and fertilizer could burn the roots or cause the tree use the last of its resources which might kill it.

2. Do not dig around under your tree. Its feeder roots are mainly in the top six inches of soil. It is counterproductive to further damage your tree's roots.

My tree lost its leaves. Is it dead? In a severe drought some deciduous trees can go into protective dormancy. Watering can help them return to growing leaves. Watering needs to continue until the tree receives sufficient rainfall (about one inch per week).

Severely stressed trees might not grow leaves until June or even later, with watering. It usually takes a dead tree at least one or two years to become structurally unstable and drop large branches. Thus you can give your tree extra time to recover. Some trees will root sprout and regrow from the base if given time (especially oaks). If a cedar has all brown or red needles, it is probably dead, but you could wait and see if it can recover. An established cypress tree can drop all of its needles in a drought and recover during spring rains. It can help to water a cypress tree weekly to relieve some of the drought stress. There is no precedent for the drought of 2011 which might continue through 2012.



Recent new leaves and catkins on this blackjack show it is a survivor!

For more information, go to the [Texas Forest Service website](http://txforestservicetamu.edu) at txforestservicetamu.edu.



WINGS OVER THE HILLS NATURE FESTIVAL APRIL 27-28-29

A celebration of natural flight saluting the unique winged wildlife of the Texas Hill Country offering opportunities for education and entertainment for the whole family.

The last weekend of April 2012 marks the second annual Wings Over the Hills Nature Festival held in the beautiful Texas Hill Country at Fredericksburg.

"A Celebration of Natural Flight," the festival is an opportunity for the whole family to experience the abundance of regional winged wildlife including birds, bats, butterflies, and dragonflies.

Our program features many educational presentations by noted nature specialists, an activity area just for kids, guided field trips on the park's nature trail and tours of the area.

Visitors can enjoy the festival trade show featuring the best products geared to birding, nature and outdoor activities.

Springtime is one of the best times to visit the Texas Hill Country and the wildflower trails.

Purchase festival passes online at wingsoverthehills.org/tickets.html

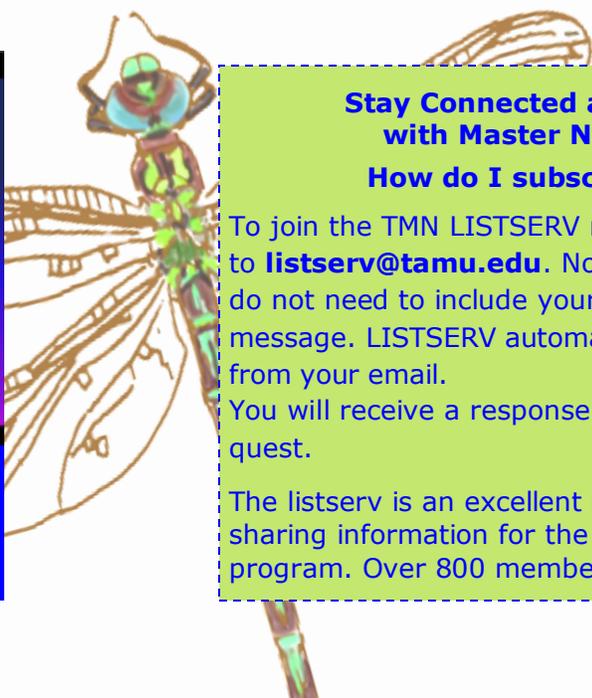
Join us in Fredericksburg for a naturally wonderful weekend.

wingsoverthehills.org/index.html

Organized by Fredericksburg Rotary Clubs and Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center.
Proceeds from the Wings Over the Hills Nature Festival are returned to the local community in the form of civic projects and scholarships.

All five visible planets light up March 2012 evening sky

<http://earthsky.org/tonight/all-five-visible-planets-light-up-march-2012-evening-sky>



Stay Connected and Keep Current with Master Naturalist News

How do I subscribe to the list?

To join the TMN LISTSERV mailing list, send an email to listserv@tamu.edu. No "subject" is required. You do not need to include your email address in your message. LISTSERV automatically uses the address from your email.

You will receive a response asking to confirm this request.

The listserv is an excellent means of learning and sharing information for the Texas Master Naturalist program. Over 800 members are enrolled.



Tom Collins found these two cardinal species at his oasis on March 5. Northern cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* and pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus*.



Garry Speir

Finch fantastic! Garry Speir captured these fabulous finches congregating in a Texas persimmon in his yard in Kerr County. He was also fortunate to be in the right place at the right time and observed this confrontation between a Rio Grande turkey and an axis buck. Garry is handy with a camera and takes many pictures on his place and in Kendall County parks. In addition to contributing to the chapter, Garry is a director with Kendall County Partnership for Parks.



Garry Speir

Ed Holinka, an avid birder, took this series of photos of a white crowned sparrow at James Kiehl River Bend Park (JKRB) during the monthly census. The JKRB census is held on fourth Tuesdays. Email Carolyn Bean, curione@yahoo.com, to join in.

Riverside Nature Center Weekly Fauna Census

New bird species: blue-winged teal, a great egret flyover, and red-winged blackbird. The RNC bird list now at 158 species.

On March 2, we had thirty bird species and five species of butterflies including one new species - a mourning cloak.

- Ronald Hood
- Cynthia Johnson
- Stephanie Perry
- Tom Schall
- Harriet Warren
- Marion Worthington
- Tom Collins



Mourning Cloak

This species is considered a Rare to Uncommon species in Texas – especially South Texas. It is one of the longest living butterfly species, living up to eight to ten months. It is the largest of the brushfoot family. This butterfly first emerged last summer, then overwintered, and may mate before it dies this spring. You can see that this is a much worn individual. A fresh adult’s wing border would be yellow with clear blue sub-marginal spots. This bug has had a difficult life as it appears a bird has nipped off part of its hind wing.



Tom Collins

**Gardening in the Shade with Texas Natives with Judit Green, Urban Wildlife Biologist, TPWD
March 27, 2012 7pm-8:15pm**

Hosted by Native Plant Society of Texas, San Antonio Chapter at Lion's Field Adult and Senior Citizens Center, 2809 Broadway, San Antonio.

Having a shady yard can frustrate even the most experienced gardener. However, if you have an area where you can't get grass to grow--then learning about some of our Texas native plants that do well in shady conditions might be the trick to turning your yard into a botanical delight while also attracting hummingbirds, butterflies and songbirds! Your garden will not only be beautiful, but because these plants grow naturally in Texas it will be drought tolerant and disease resistant. Join us in learning about these plants, their wildlife value, and some basic landscape design tips. No registration required, just show up.

**Top 20 Plants for Birds (Program & Plant Hike) with Judit Green, Urban Wildlife Biologist, TPWD
April 14, 2012 9am- Noon**

at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, 10750 Pleasanton Road, San Antonio.

Join us for this top 20 countdown to the most valuable native plants that will draw in birds to your backyard. Many of the plants highlighted are shrubs and trees that serve as valuable food sources, shelter and nesting opportunities. We will also offer up some basic ID tips to help you identify the birds you might see on your property. Birds are one of the easiest wildlife species to attract, so why not get started with a new and fun gardening project! . To register: contact mlac@audubon.org or call 210-628-1639. Program fee: \$10 for MLAC members; \$15 for non-members. Space is limited.

from Cynthia Burgin

We had a great time at Muleshoe Farm today. We laid out more trail and decided on a few alternative ways to go. Then we learned more about raptors. John Karger brought two hunting falcons and taught the correct way to hand them back and forth to another person. I think every time one gets to hold such a magnificent bird it touches something inside and makes us more aware of the wonder of nature. To join the crew at Muleshoe Farm, email Cynthia, cburgin@omniglobal.net. Project code KL-09-A.



Sharon McLaughlin learn proper falconry techniques.

Wow, what a day! We were walking the Hawk Walk Trail and Sharon McLaughlin and Jim Burgin walked up on one of nature's cutest things. An axis fawn, probably not more than a day or so old, who was told by his mother to stay put no matter what giants were lurking around in the woods. We got a close-up view and all we saw move were his eyes. These are precious moments that make working with Master Naturalists something we will remember forever.



“How can you tell a baby axis from a baby whitetail?”

For those who asked how to tell the difference between an axis fawn and a whitetail fawn - the answer is the axis has a black stripe running down its entire back and the whitetail does not. Compare the photos.



WORTH *Watching*



Christy Muse, executive director of Hill Country Alliance, presented this video at the February chapter meeting. It raises a number of relevant matters for the Hill Country. Watch “I’m for the Hill Country”, www.youtube.com/user/HillCountryAlliance?ob=0&feature=results_main

Dancing Grizzly. A grizzly bear vigorously rubbing on a natural marking tree in Glacier National Park, Montana. Search YouTube to find this video set to hilarious disco music. <http://gallery.usgs.gov/videos/15>

A wolf appears to posture playfully with a mother bear and cubs. The mother is not interested in playing! http://www.nrmssc.usgs.gov/research/video/Kendall_O2007carcasswolfbear

Tom Schall, chapter member and professional photographer, will help chapter members learn to take above average pictures, then learn where to go and get them! He will present a series of articles that are Hill Country focused and Hill Country friendly. Tom's TMN experience has permitted him to talk with many members and hear their struggles to improve their photo abilities. The first installment is an outline of the topics to be covered. Look for future articles explaining each topic. Tom is keen to do anything to help us further our love of nature.



*Thank you, Tom,
for taking time to
teach us new skills.*

HOW TO TAKE BETTER THAN AVERAGE NATURE PHOTOS

By Tom Schall

Camera and lens(es)

Study, study and study the manual that came with your camera. Learn to do at least what is outlined below.

Use the camera you have to gain experience... then you'll learn what you may want.

The 'AVERAGE' camera setting yields... AVERAGE pictures...

Set your camera like this:

ISO - 400

Shutter priority - 200th of a second (eliminates shake)

The camera will select f stop... small number means shallow depth of field (f5.6) (background blurs)... large number means long depth of field (f22) (much detail)

Metering mode - Evaluative

The 3 (legs) of camera stability

1 - Poor (monopod)

2 - Far, far better (bipod, bog stick)

3 - Best (fall in love with your tripod)

Use the view finder (not view screen) exclusively unless on a tripod.. it adds to camera stability providing the third leg of support, similar to a tripod.

Light and composition

There are only two magic hours each day to photograph- one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset

The rest are up to you... learn to 'see' the color differences in varying light

Composition is a subject learned from studying books and from experience.

First develop your technique... it's difficult enough!

Editing software

It's a must... everyone uses it.

Picasa is free from Google and will do all you need to do on the vast majority of pictures (crop and sharpen)... more modifications are your choice. It is very simple to use.

Take photos of beautiful things

Hundreds of photos is a start.

Thousands are better.

Many thousands... now you're getting the PICTURE!



Connecting Young Learners to the Outdoors

What: Growing Up WILD Educator Workshop

When: April 14 (Saturday), 2012

Where: Riverside Nature Center / 150 Francisco Lemos St S / Kerrville, TX. 78028

Time: 9a – 1pm / Sign in begins at 8:30am - Class will start promptly @ 9am.

Cost: \$30 (includes snacks & your very own Growing Up Wild Book)

To register, contact RNC @ (830) 257-4837.

Registration Deadline – MARCH 30

Who Should Attend?

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, *Growing Up WILD* provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills. This workshop is designed specifically for early childhood educators and caregivers who work with children ages 3 - 7. There will be no children at this workshop.

Expect To:

- Experience Growing Up WILD activities first hand.
- Learn how to lead young learners on an exploration in the natural world outside your classroom.

The Growing Up WILD activity guidebook is easy to use and it:

- Is written especially for early childhood educators of children ages 3-7.
- Features 27 field-tested, hands-on, nature based activities in a full-color 11"x17" activity guide.
- Includes outdoor explorations, scientific inquiry, art projects, music and movement, conservation activities, reading and math connections and "Healthy Me" dovetailing with the Let's Move Campaign.
- Involves social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive domains to help foster learning and development in all areas.
- Supports developmentally appropriate practice allowing children to learn at levels that are individually, socially, and culturally appropriate.
- Is correlated to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards and the Head Start Domains.

Our presenter is Koy Coffey, Education Specialist with the Texas Wildlife Association. Koy has been in education since 1980 and has a passion for teaching kids. She presently works with several groups around the state (HCMN, TAEE, & TCIN), and is determined to help make a difference. Join us in the journey!

Visit <http://www.projectwild.org/GrowingUpWILD.htm> for more information



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.

Board of Directors 2012

Priscilla Stanley - President

Tom Hynes - Vice President

Anne Cassidy - Secretary

Floyd Trefny - Treasurer

Steve Clyburn - Director of Advanced Training

Daneshu Clarke - Director of Class Training

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Eileen Gotke - Director of Membership

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