

THE TEXAS STAR

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HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Chapter Website: <http://www.hillcountrymasternaturalist.org>

MAY PROGRAM

White-tail Deer Management in Kerrville-Schreiner Park

At this month's meeting on Monday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m. we are privileged to have three speakers addressing the issue of deer management in K/S Park.

Mike Krueger, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) District Leader, TPWD Edwards Plateau Wildlife District, will discuss the results of a deer counting project conducted in the park last year and explain TPWD deer permit programs, emphasizing those intended to assist landowners with deer population control.

Kristine Ondrias, City of Kerrville Director of General Services, will explain how city council made their decisions in this matter. Options included managed hunts for bow hunters, relocating spikes and does elsewhere in the state, and/or trapping deer and having them processed for meat. The park's deer capacity is 65. "Sixty-five is a stretch for us, and we're at 300 right now," Andria's says.

Tim Hufstedler, Park Superintendent for Kerrville-Schreiner Park, will discuss his 21-year experience with white-tail deer in the park and, from a technical perspective, address specific actions that are approved for the park.



Krueger received his degree in Wildlife Science from Texas A&M University and has worked as a conservationist and wildlife biologist in Texas for 28 years. Hufstedler received his biology degree from Angelo State University. In addition to other positions, including park ranger and TPWD Texas Peace Officer,

he was Park Superintendent of Kerrville State Park from 1981 to 1999. He returned to Kerrville-Schreiner Park in 2004.

As always, the meeting will be at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville. Bring a friend. For more information contact Warren Ferguson, 830-896-9500 or cwferg@ktc.com.



THIS MONTH WE HONOR...



Texas Master Naturalist

Julie Clay
Janet Csanyi
Mary Frances Watson (Certified in March)

Milestones

Gene Smith - Bronze

Recertification

Tom Collins
Ginny deWolfe
Cathy Downs
Phyllis Muska
Sandy Pena
Virginia Sawin
Charles Smith



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am writing this while comfortably ensconced in a campsite at Pedernales Falls State Park. We are at the end of a 6 day camping/hiking vacation to three Hill Country Parks, the other two being Garner and South Llano River. This is typical of the kind of "vacation" Priscilla and I usually take, where most of our time is spent studying the plants and wildlife, often taking pictures and making notes during our hikes and then studying reference books to help us identify things in the evening.

Anyway, this time a couple of more general thoughts have come to mind. The first is what great laboratories of learning about nature the parks are. There are so few undisturbed, relatively native ecosystems left in Texas, and fewer still that are available to anyone anytime, which makes the parks immensely valuable resources. In the last few days, we have spent hours walking along the trails, identifying plants and observing their growing conditions and habits, mostly in total solitude. (By Priscilla's count we identified 154 native species and 9 non-native species; 47 woodies, 80 forbs, 11 cacti and succulents and 16 grasses. There were 8 or 10 that we couldn't identify, and certainly lots that we

didn't even notice.) We have such great parks within a few hours drive from any of our four counties, I want to encourage everyone to make some time to go out and enjoy a park while learning in nature's laboratory.



The second thought I had about this experience is how closely the goals and mission of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department coincides with those of the Texas Master Naturalists. While the latest budget for the Department was significantly increased from previous years, the

Department can use all of the support it can get. So your visit will not only reward you with a great learning experience but will also support one of our important sponsors.

On a different topic, but one that is certainly related, we will be having our summer chapter picnic this year at the Hill Country State Natural Area just outside of Bandera. More details will be coming later, but save the afternoon of Sunday, June 22 for a fun time with your fellow MNs in a beautiful setting.

Jim Stanley



WHAT'S COMING UP?

The next meeting of the **Hill Country Archeological Association** will be Saturday, May 17, 2008, at the Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville at 12:30 p.m. **Guest speaker, Lynn Yakubik** will explain the Legacy Program, a community outreach project hosted by The Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at UTSA. In its 13th year, Legacy uses archaeological and anthropological methods and techniques to promote cultural preservation to school children, grades K-12. Each year Legacy hosts a summer archaeology camp for children. The theme this year is "Nautical Archaeology".

The presentation is free and open to the public.

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES...

The **Kerrville NPSOT** meeting will be Tuesday June 3, 2:00 PM, at Riverside Nature Center (RNC), 150 Francisco Lemos, Kerrville. The speaker will be Dr. Marshall C. Johnston. Dr. Johnston is a native of South Texas, was on the faculty of the Department of Botany of The University of Texas at Austin from 1960 to 1990. With Dr. Donovan Correll he co-authored the Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas published in 1970. He published lists updating the names in the Manual, in addition to 120 papers in professional journals and books. He has studied plants in 35 countries. The Texas Hill Country northwest of Austin is home for him and his wife LaVerne Johnston. His presentation will focus on the Flora of the Hill Country with emphasis on Kerr County. **AT Code # 08-059**

Saturday May 17, from 10 to 11 a.m., at RNC: **"An Introduction to Bats,"** presented by Nyta Hensley, Manager of Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area, home to as many as 3 million Mexican free-tailed bats every summer. Come learn about these fascinating but misunderstood "critters" that help farmers

control millions of insect pests. Learn about the life-cycle of bats, how bats use echolocation to navigate, and more. This program is for adults and children. Cost: \$5.00 per adult/ \$2.50 members. Kids 12 and under are free. **AT code # 08-050**

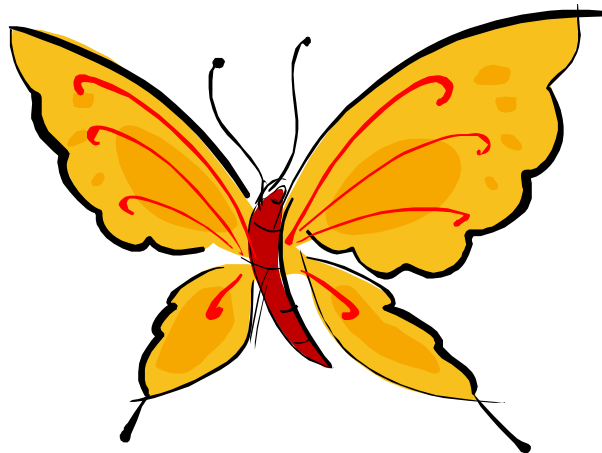
Saturday June 7, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., at RNC, Kip Kiphart will present, **"Monarchs Ask: What is a Garden?"** Would you like to attract butterflies and birds to your garden? Kip will talk about basic ecological principals that help make a sustainable garden, living and nonliving things that influence a garden, the "butterfly ecosystem," and the monarch butterfly. If you would like to plant a butterfly - hummingbird garden and create a Monarch Way station, this program is for you. Kip and June Kiphart's butterfly- hummingbird garden is on the Cibolo Nature Center-Boerne NPSOT Tour of Yards. Dr. Kiphart is active in Native Plant Society of Texas, the Texas Master Naturalists and the Monarch Larval Monitoring Project. Cost: \$5.00 per adult/ \$2.50 members. **AT code # 08-051**



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY COUNTS

During the months of June and July across the United States, people interested in butterflies will participate in the 34th North American Butterfly Count. The count occurs over a 1 day period and is conducted in a 15 mile diameter circle. Volunteers will count all the butterfly species and individuals seen during the day in the circle. A donation of \$3 is requested to participate unless the individual is under the age of 12 or will only watch butterflies in their



home garden area. If you wish to participate, please contact the compiler for the counts below. Be sure to bring a lunch, drinks, and sun protection. Groups will meet for lunch and to review the morning species list. Afternoon time spent will vary based on additional areas to census, weather and butterfly species still needed to be found. For more information, go the WWW.NABA.ORG.

Master Naturalist will use code CC-09-A to report volunteer time.

Local Counts and compilers:

June 14	Kerrville	Tom Collins	830-634-3236	towhee@maverickbbs.com
Meet 8am at RNC in Kerrville				
June 28	Center Point	Bob Tanner	830-370-3201	bintense@hotmail.com
Meet 8am at Camp CAMP in Center Point				
July 12	Boerne	Cathy Downs	830-377-1632	mzdowns@hctc.net
Meet 8am at Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne				



...AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

MANY THANKS TO OUR TMN EARTH DAY 2008 VOLUNTEERS

Riverside Nature Center's annual Earth Day Celebration and Native Plant Sale on April 18 and 19 was a huge success this year thanks in part to the support of our many TMN volunteers who served in numerous roles. Our Chapter volunteers included: Priscilla Bailey, Marguerite Belec, Cathy Downs, Angelo Falzarano, Otis Fox, Bill Frodyma, Dusty Gilliam, Guy Harrison, John Huecksteadt, Gwynn Jackson, Cynthia Johnson, Adele Junkin, Marilyn Knight, Barbara Lowenthal, Diane McMahon, Scott and Sandra Magee, Martha Miesch, Jack and Karen Millikan, Phyllis Muska, Carol Ann Neunhoffer, Barbara Noblin, Maura Osborne, Elaine Payne, Howard and Edna Platte, John Quinby, Donna Robinson, Peggy Robinson, Chuck Smith, Jim and Priscilla Stanley, Maggie Tatum, Nancy Vaughan, Gracie Wagner, Nina Wagner, Mary Frances Watson. These 32 volunteers worked a total of 57 two-hour shifts at the event and additional hours on the Earth Day Planning Committee. It should be noted that some of our members listed above are also members of Riverside Nature Center and the Native Plant Society of Texas - Kerrville Chapter, the event sponsors.

This event aligned well with our mission to promote the beneficial management of natural resources in our community by supporting our Nature Partner, Riverside Nature Center, in providing three free, well-received educational seminars for the public. In addition, we helped area residents learn about native plants and buy some to grow on their properties, thus promoting native flora and water conservation. Our members also paddled for a record number of canoe rides showing both adults and children the beauty of the Guadalupe River as seen from the unusual perspective of the middle of the river. Other members led the full day of ever-popular (and educational) kid's activities.

This event also educated the public on the plant-related organizations available to them in Kerrville by including the Kerr County Master Gardeners and the Kerr County Cactus and Succulent Society with tables to answer questions.

We can all be very proud of our members' contributions to this gala nature event. Thanks go to each and every TMN volunteer for helping make this event so successful.

Priscilla Stanley





Walk Softly ... Reducing our Carbon Footprint

As the lazy, hazy days of summer approach, you may want to consider alternatives to chemical sprays and applications when dealing with mosquitoes, wasps, and flies. Here are some suggestions:

- change the water twice weekly in places where mosquitoes might lay eggs, e.g. birdbaths, children's wading pools, rain barrels, rain gutters.
- a bit of rosemary or sage tossed on the charcoal fire repels mosquitoes
- use garlic! According to Solutions.com, you can "mix one part garlic juice with five parts water. Dip cloth strips into the mixture and hang them around your outdoor sitting area," or "...tie the cloths around your wrists or ankles." (Also keeps those pesky vampires at bay, or so I'm told!)
- Maybe marigolds will help. Their fragrance repels many flying pests.
- If a wasp or other stinging insect is nearby, the best thing to do is to walk away. If it lands on your arm, resist the temptation to swat. When you crush a wasp, it releases an alarm pheromone that attracts others, encouraging them to swarm.

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