



## **Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Detailed Meeting Agenda for December 8, 2012 Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

### **I. Officer and Committee Reports**

#### **A. President – Olivia Ash –**

- 1.** We cordially invite you to participate in the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Brazos Valley Earth Day Celebration scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Wolf Pen Creek in College Station. This event aims to celebrate and promote environmental programs and services throughout our community. In addition to numerous educational opportunities, the Celebration includes entertainment, children's activities, and free refreshments.

As a participant, Brazos Valley residents will have the opportunity to visit your booth to ask questions, gather information, and view demonstrations. Each booth will include one 8-foot table and two chairs, but you will need to provide your own table covering and tents. Due to the limited supply of electricity, it will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Your organization is welcome to distribute any business-related literature and/or incentives, but may not sell merchandise or solicit donations of any kind *unless* you have been approved as a vendor by the committee. Please let us know you'd like to sell merchandise or solicit donations when you register your booth, we will just need some additional information!

Wolf Pen Creek's circle drive will be open at 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. for assisted unloading and set up with the event beginning at 11 a.m.

Please reserve your booth space by completing the registration form by Friday, March 22, 2013.

#### **Click here to register!**

To stay current with Earth Day activities follow us on **Facebook** or visit us online at **www.brazosvalleyearthday.com!**

#### **Heather Qualls | Recycling Coordinator**

City of College Station

O. 979.764.6229 | C. 1.979.561.6003

P.O. Box 9960

College Station, TX 77842

#### **B. Vice President – Jim Balthrop –**

C. Secretary – Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of November 2012 meeting minutes

D. Treasurer – Amanda Chau

1. We will be collecting TMN membership dues (\$15.00) and will accept either cash or check (Make your check payable to TMN Brazos Valley Chapter). Please turn in your membership dues to Charlene Lusk at the meeting.

If you cannot make it to the meeting, please mail your check to

Amanda Chau  
Texas Master Naturalists  
Brazos Valley Chapter  
PO Box 9126  
College Station, TX 77842-9126

E. Outreach –

1. 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Brazos Valley Earth Day Celebration scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Wolf Pen Creek in College Station

F. Training – TBA, Chair –

G. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair –

H. Advanced Training –TBA, Chair –

I. Volunteer Service Project – TBA, Chair –

J. Host/Social – TBA, Co-chairs –

K. Historian – TBA, Chair –

L. Web – Amanda Chau, Chair –

M. Program – TBA, Chair -

## II. Old Business

A.

## III. New Business

A. Molly Harris-Report on Brazos Valley Chapter polo shirts from CC Creations

## IV. Announcements

### **Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items**

1. **TMN Spring and Summer Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)

January 10, February 14, March 7, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8

2. **Monthly Meeting speakers** (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)

January 10-none

February 14

March 7

April 11

3. **Speaker for January 15, 2013 7:00pm-Blinn College (Brenham)-Stephen Pelletier (AT credit approved)**

Hello LaBahia members and others!

We have a speaker secured for our January meeting! Texas native grass enthusiast STEPHEN PELLETIER will be joining us and he promises to share his knowledge and enthusiasm for growing TEXAS NATIVE GRASSES at our quarterly meeting. More information will follow as soon as I get all the details - but mark your calendars now so you won't miss out! And be sure to bring your friends and neighbors! All are welcome at

the LaBahia presentations:

WHEN: January 15, 2013 @ 7:00pm

WHERE: Blinn College Student Center Conference Room (Brenham)

WHO: Stephen Pelletier - Texas native grass enthusiast

WHAT: Presentation on native grasses (more details to follow)

ANYTHING ELSE: Bring YOURSELF! and all of your plant-nutty friends!

See you there!

Kathy M., [k-mile@texasbb.com](mailto:k-mile@texasbb.com)

LaBahia NPSOT Program Coordinator

#### **4. Northern Texas area Hummingbird Workshop Jan 19th**

Contact Teresa Moss for more information: 972.474.9100

I am an environmental educator with the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center in Seagoville, TX (south of Mesquite). Our website is <http://www.wetlandcenter.com>. I am also a Tarrant County Master Gardener, Cross Timbers Master Naturalist, and a member of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Due to the overwhelming response we received from the TPWD Hummingbird and Hummingbird Garden Workshop that we are hosting at the JBS Wetland Center, we not only filled all 84 spaces, but we had to create a waiting list! Apparently there are LOTS of hummer lovers in North Texas. Mark Klym, has graciously offered to conduct a second session of the workshop so that those on the waiting list can attend and also to open the workshop up to people who maybe have not yet heard about the workshop. The second session will be offered on the same day, Saturday, January 19, from 1:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon.

Mark Klym, with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is conducting the training. The program is entitled *An Introduction to Texas Hummingbirds*. The program, presented by the Wildlife Diversity Program at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will introduce people to the 18 different species of hummingbird that have been encountered in Texas, where they are found and their favorite food sources. This will be followed by a detailed outline of how to design a hummingbird garden that provides not only food, but all elements of habitat needed by these birds. We will close with a program inviting participants to help us learn more about these beautiful creatures by participating in the Texas Hummingbird Roundup.

Would you please pass this information along to the TMN members in the Blackland Prairie, Cross Timbers, East Texas, Elm Fork, Indian Trail, and North Texas MN Chapters and to anyone else you think may be interested. There is no cost for the workshop, but everyone must register to reserve a spot by sending me an email at [tmoss@wetlandcenter.com](mailto:tmoss@wetlandcenter.com). Space is limited, so registration will be handled on a first come, first serve basis. We currently have 77 spots left.

Interested in being a Hummer Watcher? Join us on Saturday, January 19, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm for a training workshop on how to identify hummingbirds and how to garden for hummingbirds. The training will prepare you to participate in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Texas Nature Trackers' annual hummingbird survey. Your participation as a hummer watcher will help TPWD to determine more about range, distribution, favored sites, and feeding habits of hummingbirds. The survey is also a way to share information about their natural history. Information collected from the Texas Hummingbird Roundup will provide more insight on conservation and habitat needs for these wonderful birds.

The training will be conducted by Mark Klym, coordinator of the Texas Hummingbird Roundup and Texas Wildscapes programs at the Texas Parks and Wildlife department. He grew up just across the international border in Canada where he developed a love for the outdoors – spending time fishing, birding, and hiking. His special interest in hummingbirds developed early, when he found a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird exploring the plants in his grandfather's greenhouse.

Mark received baccalaureate degrees in Biological Science and in Fisheries & Wildlife Management from Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste Marie, MI. He followed the hummingbirds to Texas in 1999 to work with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He is coauthor of "Hummingbirds of Texas" by Texas A&M Press, editor of the Eye on Nature and Texas Hummer newsletters and author or editor of several booklets and publications from TPWD.

Teresa Moss  
Educator  
John Bunker Sands Wetland Center  
655 Martin Lane  
Seagoville, TX 75159  
972.474.9100  
[www.wetlandcenter.com](http://www.wetlandcenter.com)

**5. Training opportunities at Spring Creek Nature Center (AT credit approved)**

TWO great training opportunities for MNs who like to teach:

**October 6 or Feb 2 (2013) – Flying WILD**

Audubon Society program and materials.

Teacher CPE credit is available. See attached flyer on **page 19 and 20 for details.**

Fee and registration required.

ALL DATES are offered at the Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center in south Montgomery County (Texas), and co-sponsored by Heartwood Chapter Texas Master Naturalist.

Questions? Call Teri MacArthur 281.381.3281 or email [teri.macarthur@mctx.org](mailto:teri.macarthur@mctx.org)

**6. Bluebird Season Kickoff in Kerrville, Feb 9th (Early Birds by Jan 9th)**

Early Bird Registrants for 2013 Bluebird Season Kickoff & FUNdraising Auction in Kerrville (February 9, 2013) receive TEN free door prize chances. Early Bird deadline is Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> The event is presented by Texas Bluebird Society and open to the

public. Online Registration: [www.rsvpbook.com/2013Kickoff](http://www.rsvpbook.com/2013Kickoff) Registration Form /Flier: [2013Kickoff.texasbluebirdsociety.org](http://2013Kickoff.texasbluebirdsociety.org) (includes details) Advanced Registration remains open through Saturday, January 26th.

Will you, please, donate an item or gift certificate for the Silent Auction? EVERY dollar raised will purchase lumber for nestboxes (which will be constructed by volunteers). Send questions to [auctions@texasbluebirdsociety.org](mailto:auctions@texasbluebirdsociety.org). Mail items to arrive by January 26th: Benni Konvicka  
1315 N. Dale Ave  
Stephenville TX 76401

A few details, for your convenience:  
2013 Season Kickoff in Kerrville  
Saturday, February 9, 2013  
Inn of the Hills Conference Center  
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (doors open at 8:30 a.m.)

Featured Speakers:  
Mark Klym - Wildlife Biologist and author with Texas Parks and Wildlife  
---Wildscaping Options for Bluebird Enthusiasts  
---Seasonal Movement of Bluebirds  
John English - Photographer and Texas Master Naturalist  
---Photographing Cavity-Nesting Birds  
Other Presentations:  
---Bluebird Basics, House Sparrow Control, NestWatching, and more

We still have openings for Show & Tell Presentations, 1 - 5 minutes (related in some way to "bluebirds or other small secondary cavity nesting birds.) Contact: [pauline@texasbluebirdsociety.org](mailto:pauline@texasbluebirdsociety.org)

FREE Nestbox (at the event) for each new \$15 Texas Bluebird Society Membership.

FREE Nestbox to members who pledge to "NestWatch" at least two nestboxes (submit observations to Cornell Lab of Ornithology through [www.NestWatch.org](http://www.NestWatch.org))

Yes, you read it correctly. A new member who commits to NestWatching will walk away with two FREE nestboxes.

\$20 Advanced Registration includes hot lunch and door prize chance(s) \$6 At-the-Door Registration include neither lunch nor door prize chance.

For details, contact:  
Jeri Porter, Local Event Coordinator, [jeripster@gmail.com](mailto:jeripster@gmail.com), (512) 773-1076  
Pauline Tom, Texas Bluebird Society President,  
[pauline@texasbluebirdsociety.org](mailto:pauline@texasbluebirdsociety.org) (512) 523-5678

Pauline Tom  
Mountain City TX

**7. TMN Chapters may want to apply for Keep Texas Beautiful Awards  
Texas Communities Are Encouraged to Apply for Prestigious Statewide Awards  
Program**

*Applications now being accepted for the 2013 Governor's Community Achievement Awards*

(AUSTIN, TEXAS) -- Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) is now accepting applications for the 2013 Governor's Community Achievement Awards (GCAA), one of the most prestigious annual environmental awards programs in Texas. In March 2013, 10 communities will be selected by a panel of judges to share \$2 million from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), to be used for landscaping projects along local rights-of-way within in their communities. Winning communities will join the likes of 40 years of previous winners, including the 2012 winning communities of Muenster, San Saba, Woodway, Athens, Angleton, Coppell, San Marcos, Allen, Waco and Arlington. The awards recognize the best grassroots environmental programs in the state, and are awarded in 10 different categories, based on population. The winner of the smallest population category, which recognizes communities with up to 3,000 residents, receives a \$90,000 grant, while cities with more than 180,000 residents qualify for \$310,000. Every community in Texas is eligible to apply for a Governor's Community Achievement Award. A community's environmental program is judged on achievements in seven different areas: community leadership and coordination, education, public awareness, litter prevention and cleanup, illegal dumping enforcement, beautification and property improvement, and solid waste management. KTB will formally recognize and award these communities during its 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in San Antonio, scheduled for June 17-20, 2013.

Communities interested in applying may download the 2013 application from the KTB website at <http://www.ktb.org/programs/awards/governors-community-achievement-awards.aspx> or call 1-800-CLEAN-TX to request a copy. Applications are due to Keep Texas Beautiful on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 by 5:00 pm.

**Keep Texas Beautiful**, a statewide grassroots environmental and community improvement nonprofit, strives to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community environment. KTB and its more than 360 affiliates work with government, businesses, civic groups and volunteers to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to make Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation. For more information on programs and events, call 1-800-CLEAN-TX or visit [www.ktb.org](http://www.ktb.org).

###

**Pertinent Facts:**

Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation first began working together in the late 1960s, sharing the common goals of making Texas roadways more attractive and safe for motorists and encouraging tourism, goals which have remained for more than 40 years. Since 1985, KTB has partnered with the TxDOT to support TxDOT's anti-litter and beautification programs such as Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off and the Governor's Community Achievement Awards. KTB has recognized

outstanding communities for more than 25 years via the GCAA program, with TxDOT providing the landscape awards since 1985.

Category 1 (up to 3,000) \$90,000

Category 2 (3,001-5,500) \$110,000

Category 3 (5,501-9,000) \$130,000

Category 4 (9,001-15,000) \$160,000

Category 5 (15,001-25,000) \$180,000

Category 6 (25,001-40,000) \$210,000

Category 7 (40,001-65,000) \$250,000

Category 8 (65,001-90,000) \$270,000

Category 9 (90,001-180,000) \$290,000

Category 10 (180,001+) \$310,000

\$2,000,000

The Governor's Community Achievement Awards winners are announced annually in the spring. Recognition takes place each year during a ceremony at the annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference. The 2013 conference will be held on June 17-20, 2013 at the Westin Riverwalk in San Antonio. The winners will be recognized on Wednesday, June 19 at a gala dinner.

The GCAA is open to all Texas communities. A program entered for competition may consist of more than one community, but one community may not have more than one GCAA entry. A community is defined as a region or regions with shared or adjoining boundaries whose beautification and litter abatement programs are administered by a common organization.

**8. Shared by and Contact for more information: Cathy Downs [mzdowns@htc.net](mailto:mzdowns@htc.net)**

I'm very excited to announce a new grant program opportunity developed through the co-funding of Native Plant Society of Texas and Monarch Watch. Funds are to be used to develop Monarch Waystations and Monarch demonstration gardens.

The purpose of the program is to educate members and the public about Monarch conservation, to produce and distribute milkweeds that support reproduction by Monarch butterflies, and to restore Monarch habitats throughout the Texas migration flyway.

Applications will accepted through March 15, 2013. There may be a second grant program available in the fall.

Please feel free to distribute the attached grant criteria to any of your local organizations, schools, nature centers and any group you feel might be interested in our mission to "Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas".

Thanks for your time,  
Cathy Downs  
Chair - Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Committee

### **Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Grant Program**

#### **Purpose:**

To establish a program by which Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) chapters, Texas Master Naturalists (TMN), nature centers, schools, educational groups and others can receive small grants from the NPSOT State office to spend developing Monarch Waystations or Monarch demonstration gardens on public sites in their immediate areas. The purpose of the program is to educate members and the public about Monarch conservation, to produce and distribute milkweeds that support reproduction by Monarch butterflies, and to restore Monarch habitats throughout the Texas migration flyway.

#### **Amount and Source of Funds:**

Grant sources are co-funded by Native Plant Society of Texas [www.npsot.org](http://www.npsot.org) and Monarch Watch [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org). The total amount of monies to be budgeted for this program varies. Normally it is an amount that will provide for grants ranging from \$50 to \$400. Chapters and others are not required to spend their own funds to match the amount of the grant.

#### **Approved Types of Expenditures:**

Shall consist of native milkweeds, native nectar plants, mulch, compost, and soil. Applications will be accepted for improvement and maintenance of previously installed Monarch Waystations or Monarch Demonstration Gardens. Plants can be replaced or milkweeds can be added.

#### **Grant Administration Committee:**

Shall consist of the following members: Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Committee and the NPSOT VP of Environmental Liaison. The committee's duties are to evaluate and rank grant applications and to award grants. Evaluation will be based on each plan's completeness and feasibility and benefit to NPSOT and Monarch Watch goals.

#### **Procedures:**

**Application to the Grant Committee must be made by March 15 of the year the grant is needed.**

- Grants will be awarded by March 29, after the annual budget is approved. Grants may be available again in fall.
- Funds are to be spent by June 30 of the grant year.
- Project evaluation report will be filed with the Grant Administration Committee by July 30.

**Evaluation:**

The Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Committee chairman will monitor the progress of the project once a month. Either she or her representative (in case travel distance is excessive) will visit the site near project fund expenditure date of June 30. By July 30, the grantee will submit a short written report to the Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Committee giving the project status or results, including lessons learned that would help others on similar projects, records of man-hours contributed by each volunteer and project accounting statement with invoices (budget reconciliation) for record keeping. This information will be used to capture results of the program and to justify 501c3 status to IRS

**Application:**

- List person responsible for the administration of the project, their affiliation and their contact information.
- Organization(s) supplying volunteers, estimated # of volunteers, & their estimated man-hours to be contributed.
- Describe on page one how the project will further the mission of the program.
- Describe on page two the project location and design concept. Include a sketch plan and a list of materials, native milkweeds and native plants to be used. One item group plant cost, each material cost, etc. (All projects must use only indigenous native plants.)
- On page three create an activity/task schedule and maintenance program.

**Submit application to:**

**Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Committee Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Committee**

**Attn: Cathy Downs**

**Attn: Gracie Waggener**

**105 Feather Hill Road 2703 Band era Hwy.**

**Comfort, TX 78013 OR Kerrville, TX 78028**

Or Email application: [mzdowns@hctc.net](mailto:mzdowns@hctc.net) Or E-mail application [gwaggener@flow-apps.com](mailto:gwaggener@flow-apps.com)

**Phone: 830 377-1632 Phone: 210-885-7980**

**Application Deadline: March 15**

**Determination of a Monarch Watch Monarch Waystation:**

Monarch Waystation requirements for certification may be determined by following the link below.

[http://www.monarchwatch.org/wavstations/waystation\\_requirements.pdf](http://www.monarchwatch.org/wavstations/waystation_requirements.pdf)

***9. Excerpted from the Hays County Chapter President, Larry Calvert in a message to the chapter members:***

### **Why report volunteer hours?**

From the first day we entered the Master Naturalist class we all heard people tell us to turn in our volunteer hours. We all know we need 40 hours each year to be certified, but why does it matter that we document all of our volunteer hours?

All of the hours we turn in get reported to our Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) sponsors. TPW uses nationally accepted values for each hour of volunteer work reported. Currently that value for the TMN program is \$19.50 per hour. For 2011, the Hill Country Chapter reported 8,501 hours, which were valued at \$165,700. TPW applies for federal grants to support the work they do, including sponsoring the MN program, state parks, etc. The Fed Aid program awards grants to the agency with our service used as in-kind match. If you use the 2011 value for all Hays County Master Naturalist hours worked since the beginning of the chapter 12 years ago, our work has resulted in nearly \$1.23 Million in grants for TPW. Wow! Not bad folks!

Please take the time to keep track of the hours you work and then be sure to turn them in. To spread our membership chair's input work it is best to turn in hours by the 5th of each month. At a minimum turn in your hours by the quarter since they must report all volunteer hours quarterly to TPW.

Thanks for your consideration and think about hours you may have just missed turning in for 2012. It is not too late to turn them in. All hours worked in a calendar year count for that year's recertification but we encourage everyone to get their hours reported before the Chapter celebration so you can be recognized publicly for your efforts!

Larry Calvert,  
Hays County Master Naturalist Chapter President

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***Excerpts from a recent Hill Country Chapter Newsletter Edition:***

### **Why Report Volunteer Hours?**

We have all been through the class. For those who have certified or those who are working on it, the reporting of hours is not just to attain your picture in the newsletter and the annual pin! A few facts you may have forgotten:

### **Your Hours Mean Real Money**

Currently, the value of each hour that you report is \$19.50. For 2011 alone that amounted to **\$413,887.50 [for the Hill Country Chapter]**. What does that mean? The federal aid grant for the Texas Master Naturalist program supports the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and many of the programs it offers. While not directly contributing to the state park shortfall, the TMN volunteers who conduct service in state parks help replace the loss of staff diminished by budget cuts. As Master Naturalists, you better than most Texas citizens know the value of our state and local parks, local nature centers, and nature education in nature for young people.

### **The Chapter Record Keeper and You**

Each Chapter has a Record Keeper. All of them are saints! Imagine trying to keep up with the paper work generated by as many as 250 volunteers. How can we help these people?

7. Use the correct service project code.
8. Use the correct service report form and sign it. We all like to do things our own way; but in this case, variety is NOT a good thing.
9. Report hours timely. A question I had to ask early on in reporting hours is: "Can you report hours late?" "It is recommended that you report each month for the month before. But if you forgot some hours, they can be included in a subsequent report. Each chapter prepares a quarterly report for the State TMN Program office, so to make that work easier, report hours as soon as you can.

### **Have you gotten out of the habit of reporting?**

It has been noticed that there are trained master naturalists who are still providing volunteer services, but for whatever reason, do not report hours. Maybe it seems pointless or worse, too much like punching the clock; but it means a lot to the program and the program really cannot exist without the federal grant that subsidizes it. If it was important to you to learn from the Master Naturalist program, then the small price you pay is to quantify the hours you volunteer in a monthly report. To quote Mother Teresa: "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

### **What expenses associated with being a Master Naturalist can you deduct?**

You should definitely check with your accountant, but IRS Publication 526 states that expenses related to the use of your car in giving services to a qualified organization are deductible. Reliable written records must be kept. According to the publication, records "may be considered reliable if you made them regularly and at or near the time you had the expenses." The IRS also states: If you use the standard mileage rate of 14 cents a mile, your records must show the miles you drove your car for the charitable purpose. If you deduct your actual expenses, your records must show the costs of operating the car that are directly related to a charitable purpose."

*“Volunteers aren’t paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”*

*--Anonymous*

**10. We cordially invite you to participate in the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Brazos Valley Earth Day Celebration scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Wolf Pen Creek in College Station.** This event aims to celebrate and promote environmental programs and services throughout our community. In addition to numerous educational opportunities, the Celebration includes entertainment, children’s activities, and free refreshments.

As a participant, Brazos Valley residents will have the opportunity to visit your booth to ask questions, gather information, and view demonstrations. Each booth will include one 8-foot table and two chairs, but you will need to provide your own table covering and tents. Due to the limited supply of electricity, it will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Your organization is welcome to distribute any business-related literature and/or incentives, but may not sell merchandise or solicit donations of any kind *unless* you have been approved as a vendor by the committee. Please let us know you’d like to sell merchandise or solicit donations when you register your booth, we will just need some additional information!

Wolf Pen Creek’s circle drive will be open at 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. for assisted unloading and set up with the event beginning at 11 a.m.

Please reserve your booth space by completing the registration form by Friday, March 22, 2013.

**[Click here to register!](#)**

To stay current with Earth Day activities follow us on **[Facebook](#)** or visit us online at **[www.brazosvalleyearthday.com](http://www.brazosvalleyearthday.com)**!

**Heather Qualls | Recycling Coordinator**

City of College Station

O. 979.764.6229 | C. 1.979.561.6003

P.O. Box 9960

College Station, TX 77842

**11. Upcoming Events of Interest in the Trans-Pecos**

TOS Members, the following information regarding upcoming events, especially involving training and volunteer opportunities, is put out to the members of the Tierra Grande chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists twice monthly. However, most events are open to anyone and some of you might find these of interest. The calendar,

with more details on each event, is also available for viewing by anyone. Simply click on the link or search using "Tierra Grande Calendar."

CDRI (Volunteer Opportunity) -We're looking for a volunteer to help with visitors' services during times when regular staff is not available. Days and times may vary. You'll meet and greet visitors, tell them about what there is to see and do at the Nature Center, and learn to operate the cash register. If you have some time, and can help, please contact Susan Penney [atспенney@cdri.org](mailto:atспенney@cdri.org) or Scott May [atsmay@cdri.org](mailto:atsmay@cdri.org).

CDRI Every Thursday Yank and Yak (Volunteer Opportunity)-8:30a - 10:30. Can you pat your head and rub your stomach at the same time? If you can do two things at once, we would love for you to come join us as we work in the garden and chat the time away. If you can't do two things at once, that's okay too - we would love to teach you how. We do work hard, but our main objective is to have fun while we work. All you need is a love of gardening and a willingness to get on your hands and knees and laugh. If you have a favorite gardening tool, be sure to bring it along - in addition, a hat, pair of gloves and a bottle of water are always recommended. Contact Susan Penney 432 364 2499 [orspenney@cdri.org](mailto:orspenney@cdri.org).

## **12. Seed Grants**

Fall is a great time to plant a wildflower meadow! The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in partnership with Native American Seed awards grants of seed (Seed Grants) to Texas schools (K-12) that support the Wildflower Center's mission to increase the sustainable use and conservation of native wildflowers, plants and landscapes. Seed grants can be used to establish wildflower demonstration areas, to enhance existing wildflower sites, or in other educationally directed projects. Seed Grant recipients will receive a gift certificate of "Seed Money" to purchase seed from Native American Seed valued at \$50.00.

For more information visit <http://www.wildflower.org/wildflowers/>.

## **13. TWA Discovery Trunks Resources for Educators-Will begin spring 2013 reservations in December 2012.**

Contact Kassi Scheffer, Education Program Specialist,[kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org), 210-826-2904 ext. 113 for more info.

The Texas Wildlife Association believes that today's children are tomorrow's decision makers and have thus made it our mission to create an awareness of natural resources, our native Texas habitats and wildlife, and wildlife conservation related issues among Texas youth. TWA offers programs through our L.A.N.D.S. Outreach Division, to help enhance your classroom studies by providing you natural resource, habitat, and wildlife conservation educational materials that are fun, hands-on, TEKS aligned, and offered at no cost to you.

Discovery Trunks are filled with lessons, activities, and hands-on materials that you and your students can utilize for two weeks. Discovery Trunks are a great way to further incorporate wildlife and natural resources into your classroom and curriculum! (see below for more information)

Distance Learning programs, currently offered via video conferencing, bring wildlife and natural resources into your classroom for 45-minute sessions of LIVE, fun, TEKS-aligned learning, again at no cost to you! (see below for more information)

#### Discovery Trunk Reservation Process

Discovery Trunks are a great resource and in high demand – reserve your trunk now! Each school is allowed to reserve two (2) Discovery Trunks per semester, so please communicate with your team and team lead/coordinator and let them know of your reservation.\* Trunk reservations are handled first-come-first-serve. We will begin spring 2013 reservations in December 2012.

E-mail your area contact listed below, letting them know you are interested in reserving a Discovery Trunk.

- o In this e-mail, please be sure to include your contact information, along with your school's name and district, and the trunk(s) in which you are interested in reserving.

In response to your e-mail, you will receive the available reservation dates, the trunk's inventory, and further information regarding the lessons and TEKS alignment.

Once an available date is agreed upon, the return of our Reservation Agreement will confirm your reservation.

TWA will then take care of the rest!

- ü We'll ship the trunk to your school for you to then incorporate the activities and lessons into your classroom for 2 weeks!

- ü At the end of the 2 weeks, return the trunk to your school's office and TWA will schedule the pickup for you.

#### Discovery Trunk Contacts:

If your school is located inside Houston's Loop 610 - Contact Lynnsey Dohmen, ldohmen@texas-wildlife.org, 281-702-0988

All other schools in Harris and surrounding counties (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery, Waller, and Washington) - Contact Mary Pearl Meuth, mpmeuth@texas-wildlife.org, 727-366-1144

Schools located in Tarrant and surrounding counties (Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Parker, or Wise) – Contact Leslie Wittenburg, lwittenburg@texas-wildlife.org, 512-680-6000

Schools located in Cameron, Hidalgo, or Willacy counties – Contact Tina Buford, teachwildlife@yahoo.com, 956-793-0785

\*If you are in Regions 2, 3, 12, 13, or 20 and your district participants in the ESC 20 Living Science Co-op, you have the option to either check out a trunk through ESC 20 (web.esc20.net/livsci/) OR the Texas Wildlife Association. We ask that you reserve trunks either solely through ESC 20 or TWA, please do not double book with both entities. Reservations through ESC 20 will follow the Living Science Department's protocol and procedures.

For all remaining counties or for more information – Contact Kassi Scheffer, Education Program Specialist, kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org, 210-826-2904 ext. 113

Distance Learning (videoconferencing) Programs:

- Visit Connect2Texas (www.connect2texas.net) to view our program calendar, class descriptions, and to register for programs (registration for a program can only take place through Connect2Texas).
- TWA's programs are 45 minutes long, LIVE, TEKS aligned, and FREE!
- All participants receive: post materials (via e-mail) and a quarterly class set of TWA's mini-magazine Critter Connections!
- Not sure if you have Distance Learning capabilities at your school? Have your school's technology staff contact us or Connect2Texas – you may be able to view via your desktop!

For more information – Contact Kassi Scheffer, Education Program Specialist, kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org, 210-826-2904 ext. 113

- 14. New Volunteer Opportunity-** Dr. Dale Kruse, Curator of the S.M. Tracy Herbarium Today I spoke with Dr. Dale Kruse, Curator of the S.M. Tracy Herbarium. For those who don't know, the Herbarium is in the same building as TCWC. Anyway, Dale NEEDS HELP and welcomes TMN volunteers. Knowledge of plants is desirable, but not essential. And trust me, you will learn a lot! If you are interested, and I sincerely hope some of you are, please contact him at [dakruse@tamu.edu](mailto:dakruse@tamu.edu).

**15. New Nature Play at Home Guide**

<http://www.nwf.org/Home/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There/Why-Be-Out-There/Policy/Natural-Play-Areas.aspx>

NWF and the Natural Learning Initiative at North Carolina State University are pleased to announce the release of our Nature Play at Home guide. This free publication shows families how to create simple and affordable nature play spaces in domestic outdoor spaces. The guide can be downloaded at [www.nwf.org/natureplay](http://www.nwf.org/natureplay).

**16. Texas PTA has a grants program for schoolyard gardens called "Grow Your Garden Grants"** The application can be found at:

[www.formsite.com/txpta/form256/secure\\_index.html](http://www.formsite.com/txpta/form256/secure_index.html)

**17. Nov-Dec. Reverchon Naturalist Newsletters from NRCS**

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/bio/reverchon.html>

Please forward to anyone you believe would be interested. We would like to get interesting photos of native plants and related stories within the North Central Texas area. Submit articles of 350-700 words. Longer articles are also accepted. Please take the time to submit your items and share with other plant geeks.

Ricky Linex, Wildlife Biologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 532 Santa Fe

Dr., Weatherford, TX 76086, [817-596-2865 Ext. 105](tel:817-596-2865) (O), [817-304-5266](tel:817-304-5266) (C),  
[Ricky.Linex@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Ricky.Linex@tx.usda.gov)

**18. WFSCAgriLife YouTube Channel**

FYI-- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension--Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences has a new YouTube Channel now known as "WFSCAgriLife"

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The Wildlife and Fisheries unit of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has a new Youtube channel, called "WFSCAgriLife" and can be found at

<http://www.youtube.com/user/WFSCAgriLife>

You may want to subscribe to the channel so you can be alerted when we put new videos on the channel, as we have several planned or currently being worked on.

Also, don't forget to "Like" our Facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wild-Wonderings/14677999786?fref=ts>

Blake E. Alldredge, Extension Associate I Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Rm. 112 Nagle Hall I, 2258 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843, Office: 979.845.0916, Cell: 817.371.0150

I've set a spring date for an educator level Project WILD training. This is a conservation education curricula that is geared towards formal and informal educators that work with K-12 groups. More about Project WILD here:

<http://www.projectwild.org/>

This is also an excellent tool for folks that work with adults. The activities contained in the curricula are engaging and active, which makes for a super fun workshop!

The workshop will be February 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 am till 3 pm at the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections. The cost is \$25 for materials (payable on-line) plus \$5 cash at the door for lunch.

The registration link is at: [Project WILD Tx A&M Feb,16,2013](#)

I'll send out a reminder in the spring.

Heather L. Prestridge, Assistant Curator, Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, 979.845.5783, [hlprestridge@tamu.edu](mailto:hlprestridge@tamu.edu)  
[brtc.tamu.edu](http://brtc.tamu.edu)

**19. Texas Archeological Society, Academy Sessions, for Spring 2013 (AT credit)**

To register, go to <http://www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/index.php>

Archeology 101 - An Introduction

Where: Student Center at Victoria College, 2200 E. Red River, Victoria 77901

When: March 1, Friday 5 – 9 PM; Saturday 9 AM – 4 PM; Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

This Academy will introduce basic archeological procedures. Instruction will include identifying archeological sites, mapping visible remains, analyzing evidence, reporting finds, and protecting our heritage. Sessions will be taught by Dr. Harry Shafer assisted by Dr. Jon Lohse. Field work at the McNeill site will be supervised by Eric Ray, curator at the Museum of the Coastal Bend, and members of the CoBALT team.

McNeill Site 41VT141 has 9000 years of continuous occupation, Paleo Indian through historic period with a large concentration of Clear Fork tools, Golondrinas points and multiple fire hearths. It resembles other Guadalupe valley sites. Details were published in *La Tierra*, Vol. 35 No. 1&2, THC's Current Archeology in Texas, April 2006, and post graduate works by Matt Taylor, Mike Aiuvalasit and Erin Atkins. It is utilized for educational purposes for elementary school groups, Boy Scouts and UT field school under Dr. Michael Bever. This Academy will be hosted by the Museum of the Coastal Bend at Victoria College where we will visit their excellent exhibit on local archeology.

Registration deadline: February 15

Archeobotany

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

When: April 6, Saturday 9 am- 4:45 pm and Sunday April 7, 8:30 am - 3 pm with Friday evening preparation of an earth oven-information to be sent to participants.

Archeobotany will have a unique format with Dr. Leslie Bush chairing the sessions and numerous archeologists joining her to present their research and supervise hands-on activities. The following experts will present: Leslie Bush (introduction and summary), Dr. Kevin Hanselka (ethnobotany), Paul Waller (plant dyes), Doug Boyd (earth ovens), Dr. Karen Clary (grocery store botany), Neal Stillely (fire making), and Mike Quigg (emerging technologies). Dr. Matt Turner will be available to sign copies of his book, *Remarkable Plants of Texas*. Hands-on activities will include an earth oven, nut processing, dye baths and a plant walk. A set of "readings" will be sent to registered participants in advance of the Academy.

Registration deadline: March 22.

TAS is a provider of CPE for educators - certificates will be issued.

To register, go to <http://www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/index.php>

*Archeology 101* will meet Friday to Sunday, March 1-3, 2013, in Victoria Texas. With assistance from Dr. Jon Lohse, Dr. Harry Shafer will lead classroom lectures and activities. And Eric Ray (Curator at the Museum of the Coastal Bend), along with members of the CoBALT team, will supervise field work at the McNeil-Gonzales site.

*Archeobotany* meets Saturday and Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in Kerrville, Texas. Dr. Leslie Bush will chair several sessions that feature expert archeologists presenting their research and leading hands-on demonstrations. Topics include ethnobotany, plant dyes, earth ovens, nut processing, emerging technologies, and a plant walk, all of which are sure to captivate and inform the participants!

Fees: each academy is \$95 for members and \$155 (including TAS membership dues) for individual non-members. Fees for other non-members are listed below. Lunches, snacks, and drinks will be provided during each session. Please check Texas Archeological Society's web site, <http://www.txarch.org>, for updates and specific details about each of the academies. You can register by mail with this registration form or with a printout of the online .PDF; you can also register online. All credit card registrations should be completed online.

**20. The El Camino Real Chapter has set up an Amphibian and Mussel Watch Train the Trainer Workshops for April 26 - 27, 2013 in Milam County.**

Attached is information and a registration form. Marsha May is Coordinating this training with our Chapter. (pages 20 and 21)

We may ask participants to bring a sack meal or our Chapter may provide food for the trainings. Will see how many register and make that decision closer to event dates.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Katherine Bedrich, Texas Master Naturalist, *El Camino Real Chapter*,  
[kamber51@att.net](mailto:kamber51@att.net), 254-697-2836

**21. Please join us in developing a Texas Junior Master Naturalist (TXJMN) Program: An open invitation**

Greetings to all!

This message is being sent to invite participation in the development of a Texas Junior Master Naturalist program, as well as to inform you of the current status of this project. Please feel free to share this information with your Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) chapters through your newsletters, email blasts and other avenues.

Over the past years, TMN's have set the wheels in motion by developing their own Junior MN programs, sharing their experiences and interests at TMN State Meetings and through online discussions, handled through a Google Group page. We welcome

you to explore the online group discussions and contribute your own experiences and ideas by joining the group at <https://groups.google.com/group/TexasJuniorNaturalist> .  
A broad base of input from across the state is invaluable at this stage of development!

A current project focus is the creation of teams to take on different aspects of program development. There are volunteer spaces to be filled in each of these areas, and we welcome you to join a team/teams that are a good match for your skills and interests: Administrative/ Legal, Curriculum & Reading Material Development, Computer/Graphic, Outreach/Training, Grant Writers, Cross-teamers. We will continue to coordinate our efforts through the online Google Group page, and teams will begin communicating more through email about their specific portions of the program. Cross-teamers will be included in all teams discussions to help everyone stay on the same track. There is the possibility of online and/or face-to-face meetings in the future.

Volunteer hours given to the development of a TXJMN program may be reported to your chapter after your chapter has approved the project at your local level. The suggested code for this projects is: *JrMNStateTaskForce*.

Thank you for all the wonderful work you're doing across the state!

All the best,

Stephanie Stone Perry, TMN, Hill Country Chapter  
and Michelle Haggerty, TMN State Coordinator

## Flying WILD Workshop Registration Form

Flying WILD is an exciting new education program that introduces students to bird conservation through school bird festivals, hands-on classroom activities, and community service projects. This workshop is suitable for formal educators, non formal educators, home schooling parents, scout leaders, and youth leaders. Through a partnership with the Council for Environmental Education (the national office for Flying WILD and Project WILD) the Houston Audubon Society (HAS) is offering Flying WILD training and materials. Each workshop participant will receive the program publication, *Flying WILD: An Educator's Guide to Celebrating Birds* plus additional materials and booklets.

To register, please complete and return this form. Please email form to Mary Anne Weber [maweber@houstonaudubon.org](mailto:maweber@houstonaudubon.org)  
Or mail to: Houston Audubon 3997 River Drive, Houston, TX 77017

Space is limited, so registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis.

Name:

Please wear comfortable clothing for indoor and outdoor activities. Bring a sack lunch, drinks and snacks for the day. For more information and a map - please email [maweber@houstonaudubon.org](mailto:maweber@houstonaudubon.org) or call 713.640.2407

DATE: **CHOOSE ONE DATE**

**October 6, 2012 9 AM – 2:30 PM Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center \$15.00** 1300 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring TX 77386 (281-364-4225)

**February 2, 2013 9 AM – 2:30 PM Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center \$15.00** 1300 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring TX 77386 (281-364-4225)

Mailing Address

Amount

\$

Street:

([www.houstonaudubon.org](http://www.houstonaudubon.org) to use a credit card)

Enclosed

City & Zip:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Subjects you are Teaching:

E-mail Address:

Affiliation:

**Grade Level Teaching (if applicable):**

This 5-hour workshop may be credited toward Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements set by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). Houston Audubon is registered as an approved CPE Provider.

Registration  
Texas Nature Tracker

# Texas Amphibian and Mussel Watch Train the Trainer Workshops

*April 26 and 27, 2013 – Rockdale, Texas*

Rockdale General Store; 1201 W Hwy 79; Rockdale, Texas.

Learn how to identify amphibian and freshwater mussel species and participate in scientific research as members of an important Texas Nature Tracker Partnership. Sponsored by the El Camino Real Master Naturalist Chapter.  
*Texas Master Naturalist Approved Advanced Training*

Registration required. Fee \$10.00 for materials per workshop.

Name:

Address:

Phone #

Email:

Attending:

Texas Amphibian Watch will be held on April 26, 4:00pm to 10 PM (\$10.00)

Texas Mussel Watch will be held on April 27, 10 AM until 5 PM. (\$10.00)

CPE and TEEAC credit available for educators.

Total Amt \$

Check #

Make checks payable to: **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

**Return to:**

Katherine Bedrich  
1949 County Road 145

Cameron, Texas 76520  
[kamber51@att.net](mailto:kamber51@att.net)  
254-697-2836

Katherine Bedrich  
Texas Master Naturalist

**El Camino Real Chapter**

## **Texas Amphibian and Mussel Watch Train the Trainer Workshops**

**April 26 and 27, 2013**

Rockdale General Store, 1201 W Hwy 79, Rockdale, Texas

Learn how to identify amphibian and freshwater mussel species and participate in scientific research as members of an important Texas Nature Tracker Partnership. Sponsored by the El Camino Real Master Naturalist Chapter. Texas Amphibian Watch will be held on April 26, 4:00pm to 10 PM; and Texas Mussel Watch will be held on April 27, 10 AM until 5 PM. *Texas Master Naturalist Approved Advanced Training*. CPE and TEEAC credit available for educators.

Fee \$10 for materials per workshop. Registration required.  
Contact Katherine Bedrich at 254-697-2836 or [kamber51@att.net](mailto:kamber51@att.net) for information and registration.

Agenda:

**Texas Amphibian Watch** – Friday April 26, 2013 (6 A.T. hrs )

4:00 – 8:30 pm – Training at RGS

8:30 – 10:00 pm – Field training at Perry Pecan Patch

**Texas Mussel Watch** – Saturday April 27, 2013 (7 A.T. hrs)

10:00am – 2:00pm - Training at RGS;

2:00 – 5:00pm Field training at Perry Pecan Patch