



The Tracker

The Central Texas Master Naturalist Newsletter October, 2011

Inside This Issue

From the President's Corner	2
Beauty in Bastrop	3
Barn Swallows	4
Fossils, Trails, Rocks	7
Drink of the Gods	9
Bluebirds are calling	10
Aug. Meeting/Certifications	12
Migrating Birds	13
Announcements	14
Upcoming Events	15
FYI	16

Anglers One and All

-Ursula Nanna, Angler Ed Instructor Coordinator

On June 16, 2011, a group of Central Texas Master Naturalists took the Texas Parks and Wildlife Angler Education Instructor course in Salado, taught by Karen Marks from TPWD. The course provided us the skills and information to teach others to become successful Anglers, and experience the fun of fishing.



Armed with all this new information, 5 of the course attendees formed an Angler Ed Instructor Group. From that decision, sprang a whole new avenue of teaching others. The participants grew from the 5 core group members to 10, all CTMN Angler Ed certified Instructors, and 4 Central Texas Master Naturalists who were not yet certified, totalling 14 in all.

Calendar at a Glance

CTMN General Meeting, October 11, 6 pm. Surprise Talk
 TXMN State Meeting, October 21 - 23
 Family Fun Festival, Oct. 8, Expo Center
 Family Fossil Fun Day, Oct. 9, UT
 National Fossil Day, Oct. 12, UT
 Orientation for New Class, March 20
 New Class runs March 27 - May 7

The first meeting was electric with excitement as we planned out the event day and the topics we each wanted to teach. We also organized what we call 'docks', or areas of specific training objectives. By the way, Karen Marks loved the name 'docks' so much that she will incorporate it into her station designations. Each dock was "manned" by a certified Angler Instructor and one or more helpers and had a fishing pole sporting that dock's number.

Continued on page 5.....

Chapter Motto

**Earth Day,
Every Day**

T E X A S



From the President's Corner

Will this hot weather never end? This has been such an unusual year, with its lack of rain and hot, hot dusty days and only a bit cooler nights.

Having traveled into Oklahoma into the Ouachita National Forest in July, I was struck with all the dead trees. On the sides of some of the hills were whole populations of trees that had died. Traveling around Central Texas one also finds the mortality of our trees



have followed the same fate as Oklahoma's forest. While camping at Buescher State Park in mid March, I learned the pine bark beetle had attacked the pine

trees in that area. When trees become stressed, that is when the secondary invaders come in, and in this case it was the pine bark beetle. Close to home, I am seeing evidence of the borer that attacks the ash juniper.

This actually became a teaching tool, while working with some Boy Scouts on the Forester Merit Badge. They have to find evidence of something that causes damage, whether animal or insect, to trees, and we found the tunnels within some cut-down ash juniper trees. This amazed the scouts. And we also found the boring evidence of the carpenter bee. Comparing the two was also insightful, and the scouts were able to see the difference both insects make on our tree populations. As an added bonus, there was evidence

of a bird nest within the trunk in another tree!

In teaching youth, it is always heartening to see their minds at work: how to identify different trees by the leaves, by the trunk, by the seeds; how does the rain



cycle work; how can we see pollution in the air; identifying rocks and minerals; identifying birds, amphibians and reptiles, which ones are poisonous, how can you tell? Imparting knowledge to youth can be so rewarding, as was evidenced at our Boy Scout Troop's first nature/ecology merit badge weekend. Those Central Texas Master Naturalists who taught the Soil & Water Conservation Merit Badge were Linda Young, Jerry Lewis, and Louann Hight; the Nature Merit Badge, Lynn Fleming, Richard McCarthy and Marilyn Whitworth; Geology, Dr. Rock aka Ray Kozusko; Environmental Science Merit Badge, Rehannon Pampell; and Forestry, Mary Ann Everett. All our scouts talked about it after some Friday night work and most of the day Saturday work. They all agreed they had learned a lot.

I know the Angler Ed group also was out teaching youth how to fish, and so many in this day and age do not ever get that chance. It is really sad that so many of our young people do not connect with nature, but I think little by little, we are making a difference. Thanks to you for your dedication in working with the youth and helping them see what is out there, and you are showing them where to look!

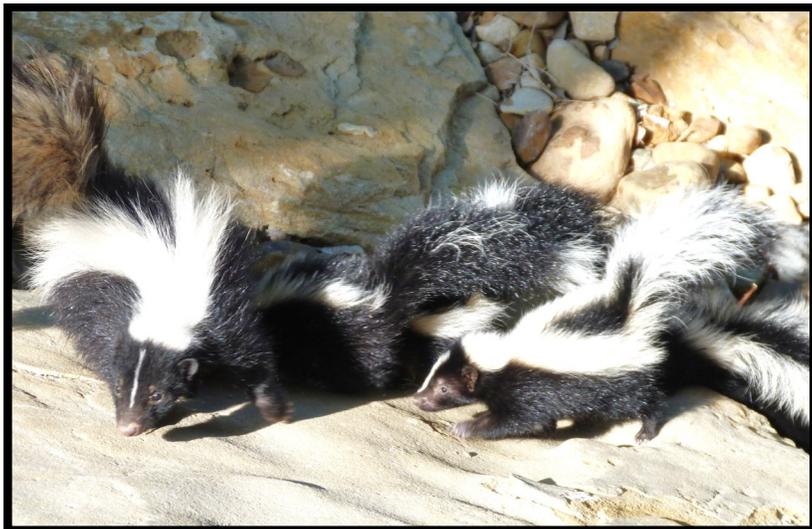
- Mary Ann

Photos by Terrie Hahn

Beauty in Bastrop

- Darla Horner Menking

I've kept tabs on the devastating fires that have plagued Bastrop late this summer. So many people have lost their homes and property to these fires and their lives will have to be completely rebuilt. I hope that each of us have kept them in our prayers and found ways to donate needed supplies for families with nothing left.



I was fortunate to have visited Bastrop in early June, when things were hot but not on fire. We stayed at The Lost Pines Resort, a beautifully tucked away retreat with lots to offer. While there, I hiked and, of course, took many photos of the beauty of the nature that surrounded the inn.

I FINALLY saw my first blue bird and was so excited, I



almost scared it off while grabbing my camera and getting close enough to get a good shot. But it sat there and even looked straight at me as if to say, "Go ahead and take the

picture. I'm way too cute, don't you think?" I mean, look at his expression. He's adorable!

The other picture is of a beautiful bird I've never seen before. I've looked in my field guides and have not yet identified it, so if anyone can tell me what species of bird this is, I'd be eternally grateful. Just email me, or call.

One other quick memory I'd like to share from my time there was of a young skunk family. It was mid morning and something caught my eye. A mother skunk was leading her FIVE babies carefully through some brush near the steps leading to the river. I froze

in my tracks as they got closer and closer to the steps. The babies were so small they had a difficult time keeping up with her. They'd trip and lose their balance on stones and sticks. It was hard to not laugh at them, but I couldn't because I was taking pictures of them the whole time.

By this time, there were about 8 of us watching the waddling black and whites. The mama led them up to the stone steps, walked them 8 feet directly in front of me and across to the other side, never even glancing my way. The babies were scooting along, trying to negotiate the stones and the gap between the steps



and the ground. Once across, she had them hiking up the steep hill from which the steps led down... toward their den, a hole in the ground I hadn't even noticed. When they finally recognized where

they were, all FIVE of them tried to climb in the hole at the same time. It was hilarious!

I sure hope this area has been spared from the fires. It's such a relaxing, back-to-nature place to spend some time away. Look it up, won't you?

Spotlight on Natives

Barn Swallow - *Hirundo rustica*

- Darla Horner Menking

The barn swallow is considered a native to Texas as well as the whole country. It is one of the most common and familiar birds in the world. It can nest practically anywhere, and it is usually found where humans are. Many people spend a lot of time and energy trying to keep these birds from nesting on front porches and under patios.

Swallows have a familiar look and are easily recognized. The male and female look very similar, having a forked tail, a fairly slim body, a beautiful dark blue color on top with a lighter to rust-like color underneath. The tail and wings tend to be more blackish.

Swallow in the US tend to be in more rural areas and build not only in barns, but any architecture available as well as the usual caves and rocky areas. Breeding season is summertime and they may mate 2 to 3 times in a season. They build their nests using materials they find around them, including feathers, mud, string, lint, and grass. It is shaped like a cup and may hold 3 to 6 eggs at a time. It takes approximately 2 weeks for eggs to hatch. Both parents will take part in feeding the young and will defend the nest by swooping and trying to scare off any intruder.

Swallows will begin their migration in the fall and from here will fly to Central and/or South America. Once weather is favorable, males will migrate back, followed by the females.

Swallows are not endangered but their numbers will fluctuate due to chemicals or weather.

Swallows spend most of their time in flight, feeding on insects and looking for nesting materials.



This cute swallow posed as it sat in a nest on the porch of my daughter's home. As cute as it was, the whole family sure left a mess below!

Anglers...continued from page 1

Carl Levin Park housed the INAUGURAL Angler Ed event on July 30, 2011 from 8 a.m. to noon. Jerry Bark, Director of Harker Heights Parks and Rec, provided the pavilion free of charge. About 30 members of Cub Scout Packs 248 and 255 participated along with family. The Scouts rotated from dock to dock, 1 through 6, at about 20 minute intervals. A new topic was taught at each dock. After the completion of the course, each Scout received a Junior Angler Course certificate and an Angler pin. There were 3 prizes for the most "squiggles" indicating those 3 Scouts who answered the most questions correctly. It was thrilling to watch the Cub Scouts and see their facial expressions and deep concentration while they participated in their own learning.priceless !! They answered questions, asked them, and even got their parents involved. You could feel the excitement and knew they thoroughly enjoyed themselves while engaging in learning to fish.

We were privileged to provide the Scouts with free hands-on activities including fishing safety, rules and regulations, knot tying and basic fishing tackle, angler ethics and responsibility, baits and lures, how to hold a fish once you caught it, fresh water fish identification, fish habitat, what fish require in order to live, pole as-

sembly and hands-on casting, fish measuring, and the principles of catch and release.

During the event,

You laugh'n at me?

we were told that because of the topics we taught and the quality of the information shared, many Scouts earned badges and achievement awards. We were very excited to provide this event and to solidify the plans, requirements, and activities in such a timely manner. The day, may I say, was a success and everyone left feeling accomplished !!!! A few Scouts

actually thanked us and said they had fun learning many new things. We knew we had enhanced their fishing experience if they had fished before. If fishing was new to them, we shared in their experience to take home fishing and share that new excitement with the family.

It's important to thank each of those CTMN Angler Ed Instructors without whose input this event would have been impossible: Gail Hughling, Dale Hughling, Liz Pool, Lyna Pitts, Joanne Millican, Jerry Lewis, Sidney van Loh, Don Wyatt, Kathy Cantu, and Ursula Nanna. Thanks to those essential CTMNs, not yet Angler certified but of great help: Gail Christian (our photographer), Richard McCarthy, Marilyn Whitworth, and Lynn Fleming. Thanks to Kathy White for making and donating the 'dock' signs. My neighbor, Hanneke Raymond, made the 'bobber' outfit.

If you know of any group interested in having an ANGLER experience, tell us. Perhaps a church group or another Scout pack, maybe 4-H or any group



Anglers...continued

looking to learn while having fun. The age group ranges from 6 to no limit.... Let one of the Angler Instructors know, and we're happy to do the rest.

We're planning for 1 more Angler Education Event this year, so get in on the action. Share the idea of having a group with which you're involved have the fun of a fishing-filled time !!!



Photos by Gail Christian



Teach me fishing!

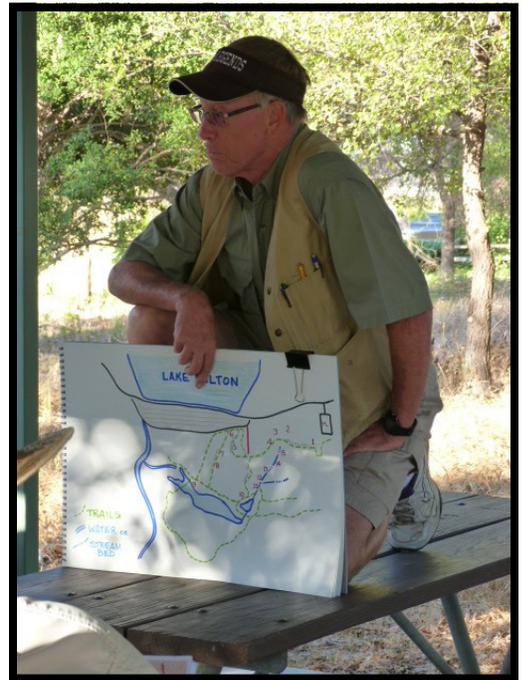


Fossils and Trails and Rocks, Oh My!

- Darla Horner Menking and Zoe Rascoe

The Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter, along with members of the El Comino Real Chapter, gathered for training on Saturday, September 24th at Miller Springs Nature Area in Belton. Led by our own Dr. Ray Kozusko (affectionately known as Dr. Rock), the 17 participants were treated to a 4 hour field course on East Bell County Sedimentary Geology. Dr. Rock did an excellent job not only preparing informational handouts, detailed drawings and a history of the area, but also leading us on a 3 mile trek to teach us about the incredible intricacies and mysteries of our county's prehistoric beginnings and the scientific evident left behind as rock.

Participants learned to recognize the Edwards, Comanche Peak and Walnut geological formations, the time periods in which they occurred, and how to decipher the order in which they formed. The Walnut Shale was a veritable treasure trove of fossils. Once Darla found the first (and best) specimen (a fossilized sea urchin), the walking pace of the group slowed to a crawl as all eyes were trained on the ground for the small remnants of the area's past life as a shallow sea.



Continued on next page...



Oh my!...continued

There was also the fun of the hike with a bridge that had more gap than bridge, the beauty of the nature around us (even in a drought), the gorgeous weather, and great company. The experience was well worth the time spent and everyone left more knowledgeable about our country's geologic development. We offer a huge thank you to Ray for his willingness to share his knowledge and time. This field trip was a great success and will continue to be a part of the CTMN program through our Master Naturalist Training Course as the Geology class, so if you missed it there will be another opportunity next spring.

CTMN members participating in the training were: Becky Denton, Darla Menking, Don Wyatt, Gail Christian, Jerry Lewis, Kathy Cantu, Liz Pool, Lyna Pitts, Lynn Fleming, Mary Ann Everett, and Zoe Rascoe. We were joined by Katherine Bedrich, Donna Lewis, Mac McBride and Paul Unger from ECRMN and by Laurie Fitzgerald



and Ray Hughes who plan to take our Master Naturalist Training Course next spring.



DRINK of the GODS

- Ursula Nanna

At a talk by Mark Klym, he said, "and when the flower produces more nectar".....!!! More nectar??? What does that mean and how does that happen and how often does it happen? You look at a flower and there it is...so what !!!! But LOOK at a FLOWER and you see more magnificence than is ever imaginable !!!!! And there's so much more that we don't see. There are questions such as why some flowers are tubular, flat, multicolored, yellow in the middle and white around. What function, besides the obvious genetics, does all this have? If we don't question then how do we learn and what wonders go undetected and unappreciated when we don't LOOK?

The brief and mundane response to the question of nectar, *Drink of the Gods*, comes something like this... Flowers produce nectar, that sugar-rich liquid, as well



as scent to attract pollinators. You may have noticed that certain flowers close at certain times of the day or night. This is to reserve the fragrance that attracts pollinators who are active at different times of the day.

The pollinators assist in the process of reproduction by spreading pollen from the flower's male reproductive parts to the female parts. In return for this assistance, the flower rewards the pollinator with sweet nectar which feeds the pollinator so it can produce the energy to keep living and pollinating. In other cases, the nectar is used to attract beneficial insects which keep the flower from being destroyed by harmful insects.

The flower has glands, or nectaries. These nectaries, from which the nectar is emitted, can be floral or ex-

trafloral. Floral nectaries entice the pollinators to the flower to stimulate the reproductive parts or to have the pollinators spread pollen from flower to flower. These pollinators are usually birds, insects, hummingbirds, butterflies, lizards, and other insects such as bees and certain mammals. Each flower attracts different pollinators.



Extrafloral nectaries are glands that are physically separate from the flower and are not involved with pollination and are not near the flower. They are found on leaf petioles, laminae, rachides, bracts, stipules, pedicles, and fruit. Their secretions actually attract predatory insects, such as ants, that protect the flower from consuming bugs. This is called mutualism. Passionflower and elderberry are known to have large extrafloral nectaries on the leaves.

Oh, those insects, and other animals that are nectar driven are called nectarivores....imagine that !!!

In order not to waste its nectar, some flowers are designed to reward only the animal or insect most likely to deliver pollen. Even flower color and shape plays a part in attracting just the right pollinator. Some flowers produce very small amounts of nectar, or ill-tasting nectar. This encourages the pollinators to visit many flowers to gain sufficient nectar. All 20 amino acids found in protein have been identified in various nectars.

Research is now being conducted in laboratories all over the world to understand the process of flower, nectar, nectar production, and all it implies. It has been found that hormones stimulate the flower to produce the desired nectar and in just the right amount. These signaling substances are referred to as *Jasmonates* or jasmonic acids. It also activates the defense mechanisms against herbivores on the leaves and shoots of a plant. As new information is unveiled about these hormones, nectar production may reach new heights benefiting holistic medicine, agriculture, horticulture, and beekeeping.

Continued on page 16

Bluebirds are Calling

- Terrie Hahn

In August, several Bell County Master Gardeners and Bell County Master Naturalists went to the Summer Bluebird Symposium in Glen Rose put on by the Texas Bluebird Society. We learned how to make Bluebird boxes, how to attract Bluebirds to our yards and how to monitor their progress in nest boxes.

Eastern Bluebirds in this area tend not to migrate. Sometimes, during the winter, we'll see migrating Mountain Bluebirds and Western Bluebirds. A pair of birds has up to four broods a year. They start up in February. Four or five eggs are laid, one a day, and are incubated for about 13 days. The fledglings are ready to fly sixteen to twenty days after hatching and continue to be fed for another couple of weeks. The parents then start another brood.

Bluebirds like open woodlands, their margins, forest clearings with scattered trees, woodland groves and meadows. They are especially

fond of fence-rows, railroad and highway rights-of-way, orchards, fields and even suburban yards and parks. They use old woodpecker holes to nest in along with nestboxes and cavities in trees and posts.

If you spot a House Sparrow going into your Bluebird nestbox, you should open the box and dispatch the sparrow immediately. They are known for killing bluebirds and their young in order to take over the nestbox. Other predators to watch out for are snakes, raccoons and cats whose efforts you can thwart by making sure to use predator guards on the pole of your nestbox.

During the summer, they eat insects and during the winter, they eat berries and fruit. You can attract Bluebirds to your yard by gardening for them. For in-

sects during the summer, plant Skeleton Plant, Prickly Poppy, Gay Feather, Indian Grass, Blackfoot Daisy, Sunflowers and Fall Asters. For the berries in the winter, plant Rough Leaf Dogwood, Red Mulberry, Escarpment Black Cherry, Yaupon, Texas Lantana, Virginia Creeper, Pokeweed, Flame

Leaf Sumac, Blackberry, Dewberry, Elderberry, Coral Berry, Mexican Plum and American Beauty Berry. This list was given for all of Texas, so a few of the listed plants are probably not quite right for our area. You can supplement feeding during the harsh winter



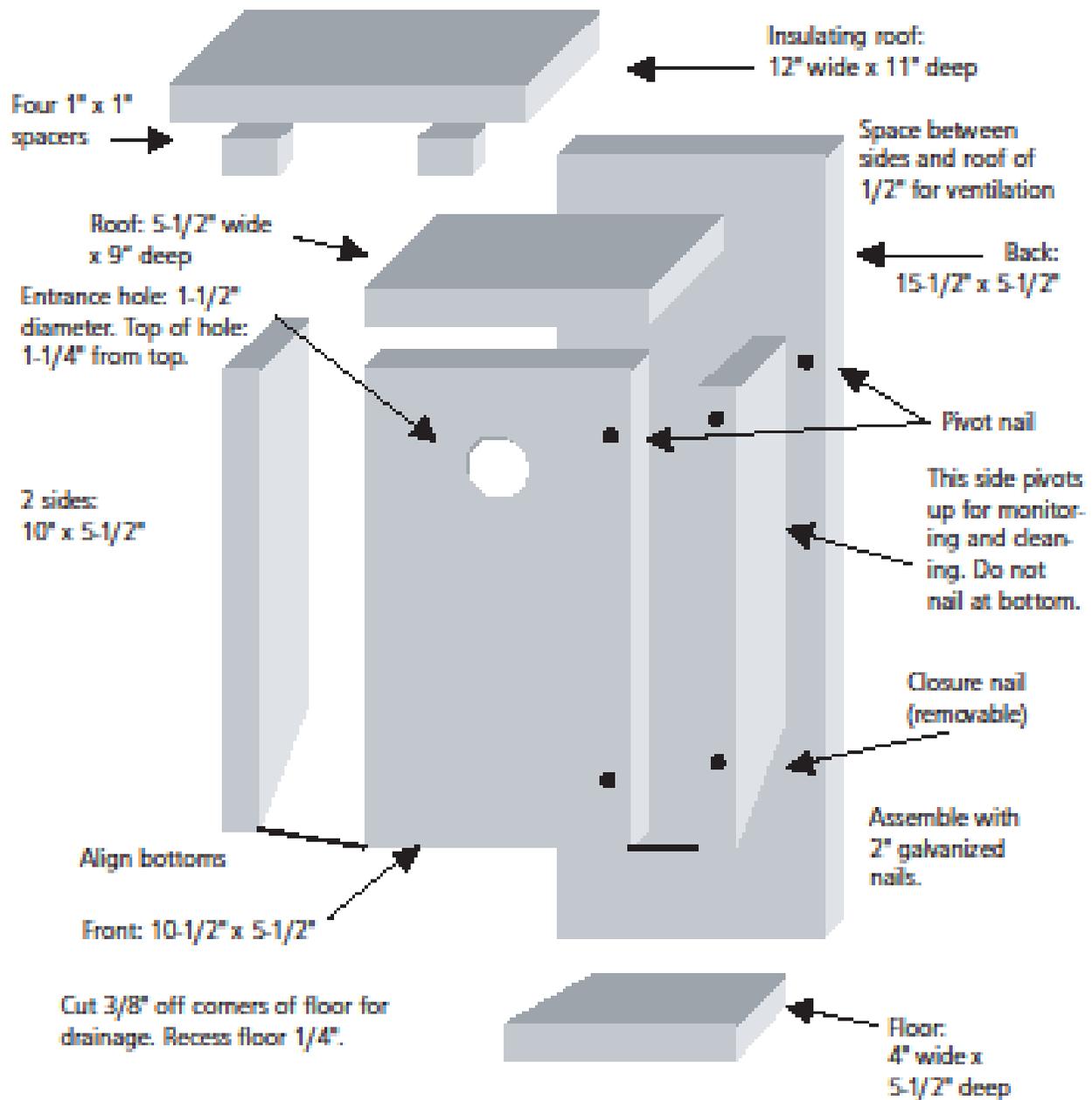
months with small meal worms. On the following page, you'll find a diagram of a Bluebird nestbox.

Left: MN Joanne Millican, MN Linda Mahaffey, MN/MG Terrie Hahn, MN Shirley Watts, MG/MN Linda Young, MG/MN Mary Ann Everett, and MG Karen Colwick Below: One of the speakers for the Symposium was Luke Hoag, Troop 179 of big Cypress District. He spoke about the programs on Bluebirds that he

teaches to young children. He started watching Bluebirds when he was 13. He's 18 now and about to start at Concordia College in Austin.



DOUBLE-ROOFED TEXAS APPROPRIATE NESTBOX



From Texas Parks and Wildlife, www.tpwd.state.tx.us Please see this website or www.texasbluebirdsociety.org for more information on Eastern Bluebirds.

August Meeting and Certifications

- Terrie Hahn

Rehanon Pampell gave a talk on Pollinators at the August CTMN meeting focusing on bees. It was a very interesting talk and power point. *Maybe someday, she'll write an article for The Tracker.* I found out that some of those small holes in the ground with dirt around them may be from certain types of bees. Many bees are solitary rather than living in hives and are non aggressive. She showed us slides of many different types of bees including Orchid, Digger, Honey and Carpenter Bees to name a few. If you want to learn more about bees, Rehanon gave us several websites that look very interesting. My favorite (This one helps you differentiate a bee from a wasp from a fly.) is:

http://www.greatsunflower.org/files/images/How_to_tell_a_Bee.pdf

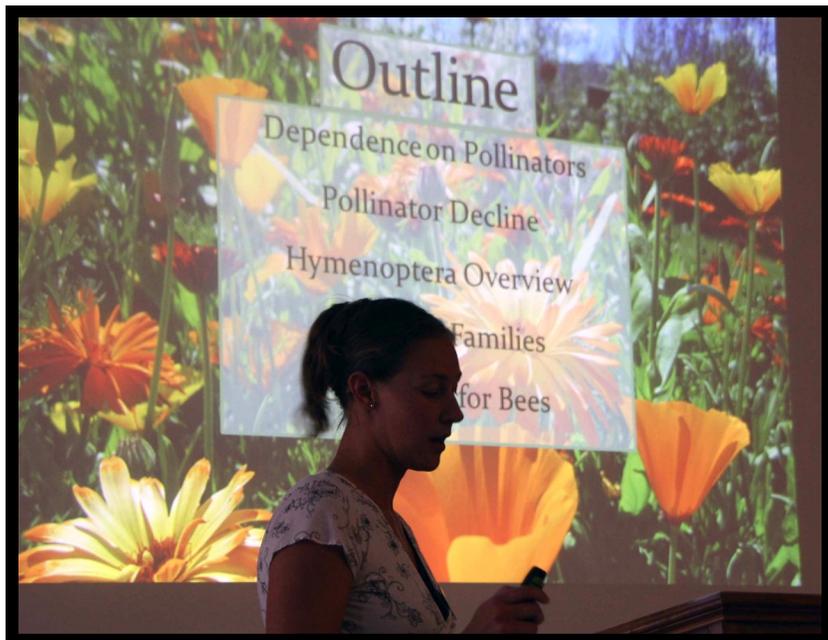
Also: www.bugguide.net

www.discoverlife.org

<http://nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/>

Certifications for the evening included the following.

Receiving her 500 Milestone Award, was Zoe Rascoe. Slow down Zoe!



Above is Rehanon Pampell giving her Pollinators talk; below is Marilyn Whitworth and Richard McCarthy receiving their 250 Milestone Award. Marilyn and Richard have spent many, many hours at the Waco Wetlands!



Receiving their Certificate of Certification & 1st Year Pin

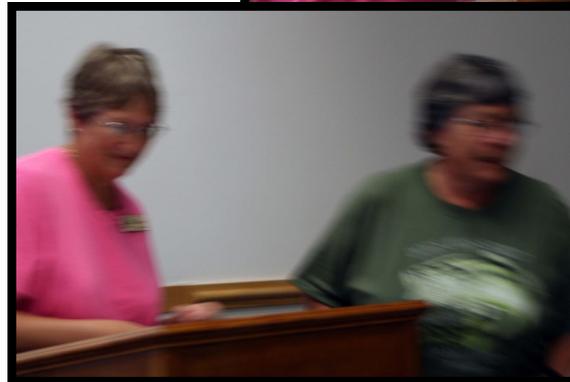


were Lynn Fleming, above and left, Joanne Milligan. Does it look like Joanne is saying, "All that work and this is what I get for it?..continued on next page

Photos by Zoe Rascoe

Certifications...continued

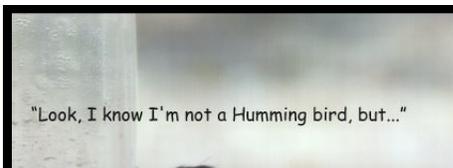
Re-certifying for 2011 (Horned Lizard Pin) were, top right and clockwise: Gail Christian, Linda Mahaffey, Ursula Nanna, and Gale Hughling. Below, Rehanon Pampell receives her replacement nametag. How could we have misspelled her name!? Also re-certifying, but pictured on the last page were Richard McCarthy, Joanne Millican and Zoe Rascoe.



Ursula has spearheaded the Chapter's efforts at starting an Angler Ed program-she's always "on the go." You can see how she snatched her pin and spun on her heel!

Migrating Birds

- Jerry Lewis



Baltimore Orioles visiting my yard in September.

Announcements

Items of interest for Central Texas Master Naturalists

-Mary Ann Everett

Memorial Donation: Our chapter will be donating \$50 to Nora Schell's husband's memorial fund. She is the director of the Waco Wetlands. If anyone else would like to donate any amount, please send a check made out to CTMN to Gail Hughling, or give it to her at our October 11 meeting.

State Meeting Door Prize Donation: Our chapter will be donating a door prize at the Texas Master Naturalist state meeting, Oct. 21-23. If anyone would like to donate anything for our basket, please bring that item to the October 11 meeting. We already have a dragonfly book donated. Anything with a dragonfly theme would be great for our basket!

We need Greeters! One item we discussed at the board meeting was having greeters at our meetings. For some of us it is difficult to get around to everyone, and welcome them before the meeting begins. Marilyn and Richard will have the sign-up sheet at the Oct. 11 meeting, and if this is something you would like to do, please volunteer. We want to be welcoming to all our guests!

A Fundraising committee has been set up. If this is something in which you would like to participate, please sign up at the Oct. 11 meeting. Work on this committee will count as volunteer hours. We will look at a variety of ways to raise money for our organization so that we can help fund projects. **V**

2012 Training Class: The Training Committee will meet Thursday, Oct. 6th at 8:30 in the Extension Office to begin planning the training course for our 2012 class. If you would like to help (there are many ways to volunteer!), please join us on the 6th. **V**

Volunteer Opportunity: Family Fun Festival, a free community event, hosted by AgriLife Extension and Cooperative Extension Program, and Prairie View A&M University will be Saturday, October 8, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Bell County Expo Arena. This is all about how families can stay active and healthy in the outdoors. We would like to have a CTMN booth featuring all the many activities you can do outdoors, such as birding, geology-rocks and fossils, star gazing, plant identification, reptiles, etc. Please let me know

if you would like to participate. My email is everett.maryann4@gmail.com **V**

Background Check Cards: If you, as a member of our CTMN, have NOT received a background card, please let me know - I probably have it. It has come to my attention that some members did not get theirs.

Next General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, October 11th at 6 pm, Belton Church of Christ. Plan to join us-we have some surprises in store! **AT**

Texas MN State Meeting

At long last... Registration is NOW available for the 12th Annual Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Annual Meeting & Advanced Training. The meeting is October 21st - 23rd at Mo Ranch in Hunt.

Register on line at:
http://regonline.com/TMN_12th_Annual_Meeting

Please note that a new feature of the annual meeting this year is that you will not be pre-registering for Advanced Training Sessions. Your attendance to your preferred Advanced Training Session will be on a first-come, first-served basis on-site at the annual meeting. This will mean that you will need to arrive to the classroom of your preferred session of choice early to guarantee your spot in that session as many classrooms are limited in space. As an alternative we are asking you to select your advanced training interest as part of the registration process to help us best plan to for popular sessions in larger classrooms where we can.

Registration will close October 11, 2011

See you at the Annual Meeting! **AT**

The new TXMN class will begin on

March 27th

and run through May 7th.

(The end date may be changed.)

Orientation is March 20th.

Please tell anyone you know who may be interested in joining!

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Family Fossil Fun Day

(sounds like a good field trip for you or you with your grandkids!)

Given by Texas Natural Science Center, UT Austin at The Texas Memorial Museum, 2400 Trinity, Austin

Sunday, October 9th, 2011 from 1 pm to 4:45 pm

Fossil identifications, hands-on presentations by paleontologists, story time, fossil dig pit, and paleo-themed crafts and activities. Free admission and free activities.

New Dinosaur Exhibit Opens!

Sarhsaurus aurifontanalis, an early ancestor to giant sauropod dinosaurs, will be on display for a limited time this year. Learn about its discovery and what makes this claw-handed dinosaur such an intriguing find!

Artist's reconstruction of Sarhsaurus aurifontanalis by John A. Maisano, TNSC Exhibits Designer

Schedule of Activities

2:00–2:30 pm

Sarhsaurus: the discovery of a new dinosaur—with Dr. Timothy Rowe, TNSC vertebrate paleontologist. Learn about Dr. Rowe's exciting find and what Sarhsaurus tells us about dinosaur evolution. (4th floor, theatre)

3:00–3:45 pm

Mammoths on the Move—with Dr. Pamela R. Owen, TNSC vertebrate paleontologist. Come for story time and a hands-on exploration of mammoths and their relatives from the last Ice Age! (4th floor, theatre)

4:00–4:20 pm

Meet a Preparator—with Ms. Laura Naski, TNSC educator and Paleo Lab preparator. See the “tools of the trade” and learn how fossils are cleaned, repaired and made ready for exhibit, research and teaching. (1st floor, Paleo Lab)

Ongoing 1:00–4:30 pm

Sarhsaurus exhibit (2nd floor)

Crafts and games (2nd floor)

Fossil Identifications (1st floor, Paleo Lab)

Fossil Dig Pit (Outside on the west patio)

Dinosaur Track Mats (Outside on the west patio) **MA**

National Fossil Day™ is a celebration organized by the National Park Service to promote public awareness and stewardship of fossils, as well as to foster a greater appreciation of their scientific and educational values.

Wednesday, October 12, Texas Memorial Museum, 2400 Trinity, Austin (UT Campus)

Join paleontologists at Texas Memorial Museum in this nationwide celebration promoting awareness of fossils and the science of paleontology.

Activities:

3 pm and 4 pm:

Sarhsaurus and the success of dinosaurs—a gallery talk with Dr. Pamela R. Owen, TNSC vertebrate paleontologist. (2nd floor, Sarhsaurus exhibit)

Ongoing 1 pm to 4:45 pm:

Fossil Identifications and more!

Meet with TNSC paleontologists and members of the Paleontological Society of Austin to learn about the fabulous fossil record of Texas and explore paleontology as a career or hobby. (1st floor, Paleo Lab area)

MA

For more information on these two programs, contact Pamela R. Owen at 512-232-5511 or send her an email at p.owen@austin.utexas.edu.

V Approved for Volunteer Hours
AT Approved for Advanced Training
MA Must Apply for approval of hours

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Identification Day

Sunday, January, 22, 2012 from 1 pm to 4:45 pm

Texas Memorial Museum, 2400 Trinity, UT Austin

Have you ever wondered about a fossil you've found? Then bring it with you to Identification Day. Scientists and experts from all over Central Texas are on hand to look at and identify natural objects (fossils, bones, rocks, etc.) and archaeological materials (arrowheads, points, scrapers, etc.).

Scientists from Texas Natural Science Center's Non-vertebrate Paleontology Lab and Vertebrate Paleontology Lab, and Texas Natural History Collections are present at each ID Day, along with a variety of special guest experts from The University of Texas at Austin and the Austin area.

For more information contact Pamela R. Owen at 512-232-5511 or send her an email at p.owen@austin.utexas.edu.

This event is scheduled twice a year. **MA**

Texas Discovery Gardens, Dallas Fairgrounds

Nov. 5, 11 am - Noon

Butterfly House Discovery Tour

Go on a guided tour of the Butterfly House and get a behind the scenes look at these winged wonders.

Included with admission (\$8/adults, \$6/seniors 60+, and \$4/children 3-11). Pay at door.

For more information, check out www.texasdiscoverygardens.org **MA**

V Approved for Volunteer Hours
AT Approved for Advanced Training
MA Must Apply for approval of hours

For Your Information

Autumn at the Arboretum

From September 17 - November 23, the Dallas Arboretum transforms into a beautiful fall wonderland. The grounds will be filled with 150,000 blooming fall flowers and foliage plantings plus more than 50,000 pumpkins, squash and gourds. Guests will discover displays featuring 45 varieties at unexpected locations – stacked near the entrance, lining the Paseo de Flores and marking the steps to the Women's Garden.

Good Water Master Naturalist Articles

Good Water Master Naturalist (Williamson County) have some very interesting articles on Mexican Free Tailed Bats (one of them is about the possible use of bats in the military in WWII) and Praying Mantis. Go to www.txmn.org/goodwater and click on their Good Water Ripples issue number 4.

Drink of the Gods...continued from page 9

Nectar is an ecologically vital product in itself and used in many homeopathic remedies and healings, and elixirs as well as alcohol beverages. Without nectar, bees would have no source from which to make honey or sustain their life.

Nectar sources aid in organic agriculture as well as organic horticulture by serving to provide a habitat for beneficial insects and other animals that provide pest control. Although clover and buckwheat are used to make specific honeys, beekeepers avoid toxic producing nectars like found in rhododendrons. Keep in mind that most cereal grain crops are pollinated by the wind.

This just scratches the surface of all the information available and barely answers a few of the millions of questions we could ask. Hope it lends some insight.

Some references: more2life.gmx.de
newworldencyclopedia.org ehow.com
wikianswers.com en.wikipedia.org

Newsletter Mission Statement

"Our mission is to inform and educate Master Naturalist members and the general public about our local environment and resources, and what we, as caretakers, can do to protect them."

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Please send any news of events, articles or photos of what you're doing or what's going on in your yard or area to:

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