

The Tracker

The Central Texas Master Naturalist Newsletter

August, 2012

Inside This Issue

From the President's Pen	2
Butterfly Count	3
The Good or the Bad	4
Angler Ed	6
Adopt a Park in Killeen	8
Graduation & Recertification	10
Announcements	12

CTMN's Participate in National Moth Week

- Kathy Cantu

Eleven Master Naturalists participated in MOTH NIGHT July 24 at Confederate Park in Belton and eight participated July 24 at Carl Levin Park in Harker Heights and

were joined by eleven visitors. National Moth Week was held nationwide to

spotlight moths and their ecological importance. It offered an opportunity for Citizen Scientists to contribute scientific data. Ours was submitted by Rehanon Pampell. There are 10,000 species in North America, found everywhere from cities to wild, remote places. We had several moth identification books which surprised us with the diversity and beauty of moths.

To attract the moths, we hung white sheets and placed a black



This Black Witch moth visited Kathy Cantu in June. I thought at first it was a bat. They grow to 6 inches!

Calendar at a Glance

August 7, 9:15 am, Angler Ed Program Info, Extension Center

August 9 & 10, Senior Market Day, Killeen

August 13, Hike & Bike cleanup, 8 am

August 14, 6 pm, General Meeting, Clint Walker speaking on Bees, Belton Church

August 16, 8:30 am-11:30 am, Blackland Science Camp Day

September, November, December, Help with Scout programs-see page 14

September 22, 9 am - 3:30, Texas Stream Team Core Training, Waco Wetlands

Chapter Motto

Earth Day,
Every Day



Continued on page 9...

From the President's Pen

I am amazed at the wonders I have seen over this summer, and not only in Texas either. We were able to travel to New Mexico with some of our Boy Scouts the end of June. I am still struck at how we are still suffering from the drought of 2011. So many dead trees in the landscape, including ash juniper and different species of oak, elm, hackberry, pecan to name a few. But New Mexico is also suffering from drought, as they didn't get the winter snows or the spring rains. Their aspen and pine forests are suffering from this, and the pine bark beetle has entered the picture and is infesting their forests.

While in New Mexico, below Cloudcroft, we were at 9,000 ft. elevation. The first night it got down to 42 degrees. It was heaven after traveling from our 100 degree heat. We saw evidence of black bear at several places around camp; elk crossing the road; lots of birds, two species of which flew over the surface of the lake so fast we were never able to get a good look at any features. Then the hummers were zipping through the forest and came to the numerous feeders that were hanging on a wrap-around porch. I saw the ruby throated and black chinned hummingbirds. At one point I sat in a chair and held the feeder and had five of these jewels perched on my hands drinking the sugar water. What an awesome experience that was, and such a thrill. Their little wings beat so fast it felt like I was being fanned. Looking at them closely I was able to see how their feathers glisten and shine like jewels, and their little feet - you can hardly tell they are perched on your hand. In addition there were hundreds of sphinx moths, with their proboscises extended into the thistle.

There they are battling a Russian thistle, an invasive, which is growing in the meadows, but this flower entices many varieties of butterflies, including the Mourning Cloak, Black



female Pipevine Swallowtail, Question Mark, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Weidemeyer's Admiral, Silver Spotted Skipper, Variegated Fritillary, and Small Wood Nymph just to name a few. Other insects of note are the Tarantula Hawk Wasp, two inches in length, and a male Dobson Fly. Wouldn't want either one in my tent.

One other mammal, which I had never heard of, inhabits the forests where we were camping: the long tailed vole. It is a meadow mouse. A cute little critter, but rather elusive. Look closely at the pictures, and you will notice their tunneling habit. In some areas where we

hiked, the holes they made caused walking to be almost impossible. They do major damage to trees and also to crops. Since they are a nongame mammal, you can control them.

Our scouts had such a great time in the outdoors, as well as their dads. It is good that the young get to experience the outdoors, and their parents too. One dad told me he wished he had been able to do this program growing up, but had such a great time with his son. It is all about reconnecting with the great outdoors and sharing your experiences with others. That little spark could lead to a lifetime vocation or avocation. Thanks to all of you who help others in the endeavor to bring the outdoor experience to others.

- Mary Ann



Butterfly Count

- Mary Ann Everett

The third in a series of nature events for the public on July 7 didn't bring a lot of outsiders, but 13 of our Central Texas Master Gardeners came along with four others, two of whom were children of our members. Gil Eckerich also came and gave his expertise to the event.

After dividing into three groups, each was sent out to find and count as many species as they could. One group started at Harris Community Center and another went to Confederate Park, and the two met in the middle of the trail. The third group went to Salado, where they walked down Main Street and then along Salado Creek.

The event began at 8:30 a.m. and we finished at 11:00 a.m. The diversity this year was great, according to Gil.

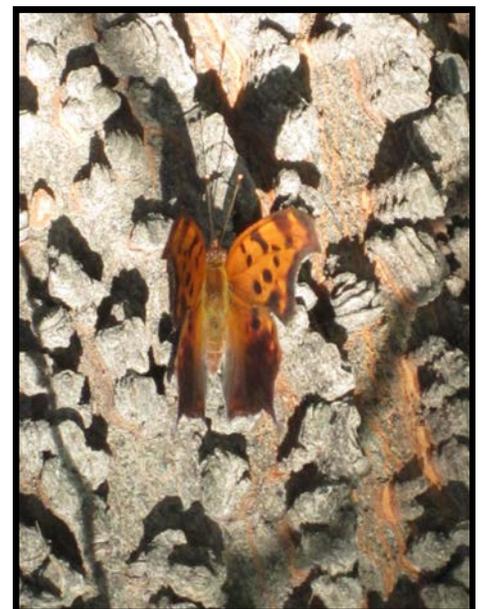
Lots of different skippers. You know, those things are difficult to identify! Then there were Hairstreaks-Gray and Great Purple, Common Buckeye, Queens, Gulf Fritillary, Monarch, Viceroy, Variegated Fritillary, Sulphurs, and the list goes on. The information was sent to Rich Kostecke, and hopefully we should be able to find the results of our count soon. When I find out, I will pass that along to the membership.



Thanks to all who participated.

Above: Marilyn, Hmmm, I think that's a butterfly. Let me check my guide; Right,

Common Buckeye; Below is a question mark; and to the left below is Ursula and Clayton hunting for butterflies. And on the front cover banner is a Graystreak.



The Good or the Bad, Invasive Plants at Miller Springs

- Gail Hughling and Mary Ann Everett

Invasive non-native plants growing in Bell County was the topic for the second presentation in the Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter's 2012 Nature Series. Chapter member Lynn Fleming who is trained in invasive plant identification and removal spoke to 25 participants at Miller Springs Nature Center near Belton Dam. Lynn defined invasive plants and outlined ways the plants can be either good or bad.

Two of those who came had recently bought some property, about 16 acres, on Sparta Road in Belton, and they have lots of invasives, and so were excited that we were giving this seminar. They had big plans to begin getting their property under control, and then

Continued on next page...



A big help came from Cassidy and her mom from Harker Heights, pictured above in front of our chapter banner. They worked like troopers as well as all of our members. Thank you one and all who came out that day to make a dent in the invasive problem at the nature area.



The Good or the Bad...continued

being able to enjoy the beauty of the natives they do have on the property.

Chinaberry trees were identified as one of the invasive plants found at the principal trailhead for Miller Springs Nature Center. Following specified guidelines for tree removal and wearing appropriate safety gear the group worked to remove the invaders. Certified Master Naturalist and chapter member Ray Kozusko was voted MVP (Most Valuable Participant) due to his expert skill in wielding his mighty chain saw.

Each participant received a free Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests put out by the United States Department of Agriculture. The Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter worked in conjunction with the Miller Springs Alliance and the Army Corps of Engineers on this project.



Photos by
Rehanon Pampell

Angler Instructors and Volunteers Run the Gamut

- Ursula Nanna

On June 21, 2012, Ft. Hood 4-H had their Sports fishing Angler Event at an 82 acre tank stocked with a variety of fish. 4 area military bases actually bussed in the youth and monitors.

The morning was set aside for instructing in fishing safety, environmental responsibilities, knots and tackle with pole constructing, and casting. This was followed by lunch and *FISHING*.

This was our second Angler event with Ft. Hood 4 H and their 100 youth.

On July 24, 2012, we were invited to volunteer for an event sponsored by TPWD at Bastrop State Park.....what a terrific environment. I would teach every time within a State Park environment!!! Bill Brooks showed us to the Docks and we just took what came up to teach that topic.

There were over 145 attendees, the most at recent events, so the 13 of us were a necessity. Needless to say, Bill was grateful for our participation and we were excited to teach in such a wonderful environment.

Volunteers on June 21 were: Kathy Cantu, Don Wyatt, Tom and Gail Christian, Ray Machovsky, Marjorie Lewis, Ursula Nanna.



Continued on next page...

Photos by Ursula Nanna and Gail Christian

Anglers Run the Gamut...continued



July 14 volunteers were: Kathy Cantu, Mary Ann Everett, Gail and Tom Christian, BA McDevitt, Ray Machovsky, Pat Maskunas, Richard McCarthy, Marilyn Whitworth, Ursula Nanna, Tom Olsen, Don Wyatt.



Adopt-A-Park Killeen

- Richard McCarthy

As participants in the Adopt-A-Park Killeen program, Central Texas Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist, has adopted the Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail which is located in the Community Park in Killeen. The inaugural clean-up of, Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail, was conducted on Monday July 9th.

Thanks go out to those that participated in making this a successful effort. This is an ongoing project. The next clean up is scheduled for Monday August 13th.

There will not be a cleanup in September, but will resume in October, November and December, the second Monday of each month.

Thanks again to all.

The happy crew in the photo are from left to right: Darla Menking, Ursula Nanna, Mary Ann Everett, Marilyn Whitworth, Ray Hughes, Kathy Cantu and Richard McCarthy. Tom Olson was there but missed photo op.



Photo by Gail Hughling

National Moth

Week...continued from page 1

light in front. What if you threw a party and the guests of honor didn't show up!? Well, we had very few moths accept our invitation. We concluded we should have used a bait made of fermented fruit. Dale Hughling created a moth trap but no moths checked into his five star hotel. Jerry Lewis' family joined us and the boys had a good time with flashlights in the dark as kids always do.



Although the moths snubbed us, National Moth Week gave us an opportunity to become more familiar with the world of moths and enjoy a pleasant evening in the parks.

Clockwise from top right: Preparing for Moth Night at Confederate Park; Dale Hughling and his moth trap creation; Moth Sleuths at work; Moth Night at Carl Levin Park; Ursula Nanna and Jerry Lewis await the arrival of the moths.



Photos by Kathy Cantu and Zoe Rascoe

CTMN Graduates a New Class

- Zoe Rascoe.

The 2012 Graduating Class of Central Texas Master Naturalists are:



Sara Christensen



Laurie Fitzgerald



Cathy Foreman



Kristen Hamilton



Ray Hughes seems suspicious of Jerry's tales, but graduates Class of 2012.



Gerrie Johnson



Mariam Jordan



Nancy Kozusko

Continued on next page...

2012 CTMN Graduating Class...continued



Marjorie Lewis



Tom Olsen



Sandy Summers

Not pictured is Bill Messer.



Jaclyn Jefferies receives her CTMN name badge.

Class of 2011 Graduates



Kathy Cantu graduates Class of 2011. Right, Kortland, proud of his mom, Rehanon Pampell, as she graduates the Class of 2011.

Not pictured, but graduating Class of 2011 are Carole Mattson and Pearl Fellingham.

Certifications received for 2012



Rehanon Pampell, Above, and Kathy Cantu receive their Certifications for 2012.



Milestone Pins Awarded

Becky Denton receives her 250 hour milestone pin. Sidney Vanloh also received his 250 hour milestone pin.



Announcements

Angler Ed

- Zoe Rascoe

Hello Master Naturalists,

If you would like to know more about the successful **Angler Ed program** our chapter has, Ursula will have all the info you need at a meeting **August 7th**. It's a great way to get volunteer hours if you are looking for projects. There are opportunities for both certified Angler Ed instructors as well as those that just want to be helpers. Please contact Ursula at unanna@hotmail.com if you have any questions. Oh, and you don't even have to know how to fish!

Interested in seeing what Angler Education is all about???? Come to the meeting at the AgriLife Extension Bldg., Belton, **Tuesday, August 7th at 9:15am** in the Board Room- EVERYONE WELCOME...Ursula

Volunteers do not need to be Angler Certified to participate. **V**

More Opportunities

- Zoe Rascoe

Blackland Science Camp Day: Thursday, August 16th 8:30am-11:30am. Blackland is hosting the City of Temple Science Camp again this summer (about a dozen of you helped with this last year.) Rehanon is organizing this event and is in need of about 5 more volunteers. She needs station helpers and possibly station teachers (she has all the material). Topics are Making Gak, Recycling, Wetlands, and Water. If you would like to help, please email Rehanon at rpampell@brc.tamus.edu soon. Approved for Volunteer Service hours.

Upcoming Mussel Watch Project: We have been contacted by

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

Virginia Sanders at Ft. Hood about helping with a

Mussel Watch project at the Belton Lake outfall at Miller Springs Nature Area. There are no other details yet, but if you think you'd like to help, please let me know. Also, if you have attended a Mussel Watch training course and are certified to remove mussels in Texas, please let me know that as well.

Tracker Newsletter: This is a reminder that writing articles (and we love photos!) for our e-newsletter is a way to earn Volunteer Service Hours. We have an awesome newsletter! Won't you consider contributing something you find interesting? You could add to our column on Naturalists or Spotlight on Natives too. Send your stories or photos to Terrie Hahn at moompie45@hotmail.com. **V**

Killeen Hike and Bike Trail

- Mary Ann Everett

We have the Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail in the Killeen Community Center Complex as one of our parks to clean up. Richard and Marilyn were instrumental in working on this project. It is nice that it is in west Bell County.

Location for the start is the parking lot on the East side of W.S. Young Drive about a quarter mile north of the intersection of Business 190 and W.S. Young Drive.

Bring: gloves, hats, sunscreen, insect repellent

Other dates for cleanup at **8 am:**

August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10 **V**

General Meeting

- Zoe Rascoe

Below is a reminder about our upcoming General Membership meeting on Tuesday, **August 14th**. I hope you are planning to attend! We are happy to host Clint Walker of Walker Honey Farms as our guest speaker who will present information on a project using sustainable beekeeping practices. You are welcome to invite any guests that might be interested in this topic or in our Master Naturalist program in general. **AT**

Volunteer Opportunity in Killeen

- Gail Hughling

Help promote our CTMN chapter and sell nature items in Killeen at the fourth annual Senior Market Day!

This is the same event Mary Ann sent out earlier -- just more information this time.

The Senior Market Day is Friday, August 10 from 9 am until 3 pm in the Kyle Hilliard Ballroom at the Lions Club Park Senior Center, 1700B East Stan Schueleter Loop.

Businesses and organizations having goods or services of interest to seniors (55 and up) are invited to participate in air conditioned comfort in the new facility. There is no cost for us. We will donate a bluebird house for a door prize. They provide a five foot table and 2 chairs. We will provide educational information about our chapter and have nature related items to sell.

Because the area we will work from may be small we will be creative in displaying our curriculum, flyers, nature guides, bluebird houses, bat house, note cards and other items. To maximize volunteer hours two people will be needed in the booth and others may circulate and talk with other vendors and patrons. There are also set up and take down hours. Don't forget that travel time counts for volunteer hours.

Hours for volunteering:

Thursday, August 9

Set up from noon until 2. We need at least 3 members and could use more to claim our spot, put up the banner and figure out how to best arrange things.

Friday, August 10

Complete set up 7 am - 9 am, minimum of 2 members and more would be very helpful

Educate and sell 9 am - 11 am, minimum of 2

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

members and more are welcome

Educate and sell 11 am - 1 pm , minimum of 2 members and a few more would be nice

Educate and sell 1 pm - 3:30 pm, this includes take down - minimum of 2 and a few more to help pack up and take things to cars. Of course, if we sell all our bluebird houses and nature guides we won't have much to do at the end.

Gail Hughling is the event organizer. Contact Gail at gailhughling@aol.com or 254-702-0980 to sign up for hours. If you have already contacted Mary Ann, those members' names and hours will be transferred to Gail's list.

Any questions or great ideas? Contact Gail **V**

Wildflower Center Education

- Lynn Fleming

FYI.....

Registration is now open for Go Native U classes at the Wildflower Center in Austin. They offer several interesting classes during the fall.

To check it out, go to:

<http://wildflower.org/gonativeu/> **AT**

Below, John Byrd shows a Bat Condo at the June General Meeting.

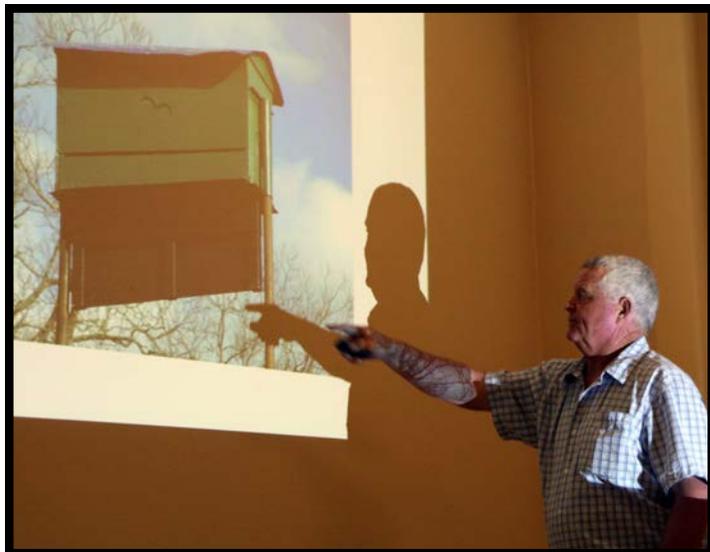


Photo by Zoe Rascoe

Volunteer Opportunities

- Mary Ann Everett

I have several volunteer opportunities for anyone interested in working with Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in the coming months. Please look these over and let me know if you would be willing to help. Meet at the Extension Center Monday, August 6 at 3 pm or contact me.

Girl Scout badges

Bugs (for 2-3 grade), Trees (for 6-8 grade):

Date: Saturday, November 3

Place: Camp Kachina, Belton

I still don't have the time yet, but it would start in the morning, and the badges don't look like they would take that long, probably until noon.

If interested, let me know which one you would be willing to teach. I have an outline that I can send you concerning what is covered on these two topics.

Boy Scout merit badges

To see the requirements for these merit badges, please go to www.meritbadge.org

First event: Nature weekend

When: Friday, September 14 (evening) and Saturday, September 15, 9 am

Place: Camp Tahuaya, Belton

I have some of our members who have already signed up to help, but if you want to help, please do so. We could use two on each team.

Merit Badges to be taught:

Nature: Lynn Fleming

Environmental Science: Rehannon, Gerrie

Geology: Ray Kozusko

Weather: Jerry Lewis, Don

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

Soil and Water Conservation:
Louann

Hight, Linda Young Forestry: Mary Ann

Baylor Merit Badge College

This is for our entire council, with over 600 Boy Scouts attending. They can choose three from a list of over 50 merit badges. Size limits on all classes.

Saturday, November 17 and Saturday, December 1, 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Place: Baylor Science Building, Waco

Session I: 8:00 - 9:15 a.m., Session II: 9:25 - 10:40 a.m.; Session III: 10:50 - 12:05 p.m.

Environmental Science -This is taught all three sessions, as it is an Eagle required merit badge: Richard and Marilyn and we need one more

Geology (taught only Session I): Ray Kozusko

Weather (Session III): Jerry Lewis and Don

Soil and Water Conservation (Sessions I and III):
Linda Young, Louann Hight **V**

Texas Stream Team Training

- Mary Ann Everett

Here is another Texas Stream Team Core Training opportunity. If you can attend, please contact Richard at the email below. This is being sent to the Heart of Texas and El Camino Real chapters also.

What: Texas Stream Team Core Training

When: **September 22, 9 -3:30** (Bring a sack lunch)

Where: Tentatively Waco Wetlands (If there is a change to location all will be notified)

Who: Master Naturalists (Class limited to 20 students)

**RSVP: Richard McCarthy, E-Mail:
3372010@live.com**

For those of you interested in this training, please see their website at www.texaswatch.geo.txstate.edu/

Please read about what this training entails, as this is a one year commitment to do monitoring. **AT**

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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Derrick Wolter,
Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife

A grove of Aspens on a hiking trail near
Angel Fire, NM.

Photo by Werner Hahn

Newsletter Staff

Newsletter Committee Chair: Gail Hughling

Editor: Terrie Hahn

Proofreader: Werner Hahn

Staff Writer: Darla Horner Menking

Contributing Writers: Kathy Cantu, Mary Ann Everett, Ursula Nanna, Gail Hughling, Zoe Rascoe, Richard McCarthy, Lynn Fleming

Contributing Photographers: Zoe Rascoe, Gail Christian, Kathy Cantu, Mary Ann Everett, Ursula Nanna, Werner Hahn

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:

Terrie Hahn at moompie45@hotmail.com

