

The Tracker

The Central Texas Master Naturalist Newsletter

December 2013

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Photo Banner is a closeup of Common Green Darner wing by Marcia Griffin / Animals Animals taken from www.arkive.org. Pictured right; Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*) from www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org.

Did you know that dragonflies migrate??

- Richard McCarthy

At the TMN Annual Meeting, Marilyn and I participated in an all-day training session entitled

"Migratory Dragonfly Monitoring Short Course."

The course is administered by the "Migratory Dragonfly Partnership." This partnership is made up of dragonfly experts, academic institutions and federal agencies from the US, Mexico and Canada. Together they are combining research, citizen science, education and outreach to better understand North America's migratory dragonflies and promote conservation of their wetland habitat.



Calendar at a Glance

Check out "On the Calendar" on page 15.

December 10, 6:30 pm, Christmas party/elections, Zoe's house, see page 14.

The five main migratory dragonfly species: Common Green

Continued on page 5...

Chapter Motto

**Earth Day,
Every Day**



From the President's Pen

Thirteen members of our Chapter ventured down to New Braunfels in October for the 2013 State Conference of Texas Master Naturalists. Our chapter had one of the larger groups in attendance! I hope that everyone that attended enjoyed the weekend as much as I did. This was my second year to attend a State Conference and I hope to attend more in future years.

Congratulations go to Dale Hughling for winning First Place on our chapter brochure! Thank you for your hard work. Other entries were in photography and art by Rehannon, chapter scrapbook by Liz Poole, and newsletter by Terrie Hahn. Next year, I hope to have more entries to show off the talents of our members. Thanks too, for all of the silent auction items donated. Our chapter raised about \$175 dollars of the \$5280 total brought in by the silent auction.

The gathering is a great way to meet fellow Master Naturalists from across the state and to share experiences, both good and bad, that have happened in chapters along the way. Some chapters attending were well seasoned veterans having been around as long as the program, others were just starting out and looking for tips and information to improve their young chapters. It was wonderful to see the exchange of advice and "this is what we do" all weekend.

I gleaned some ideas from other chapters, but I also

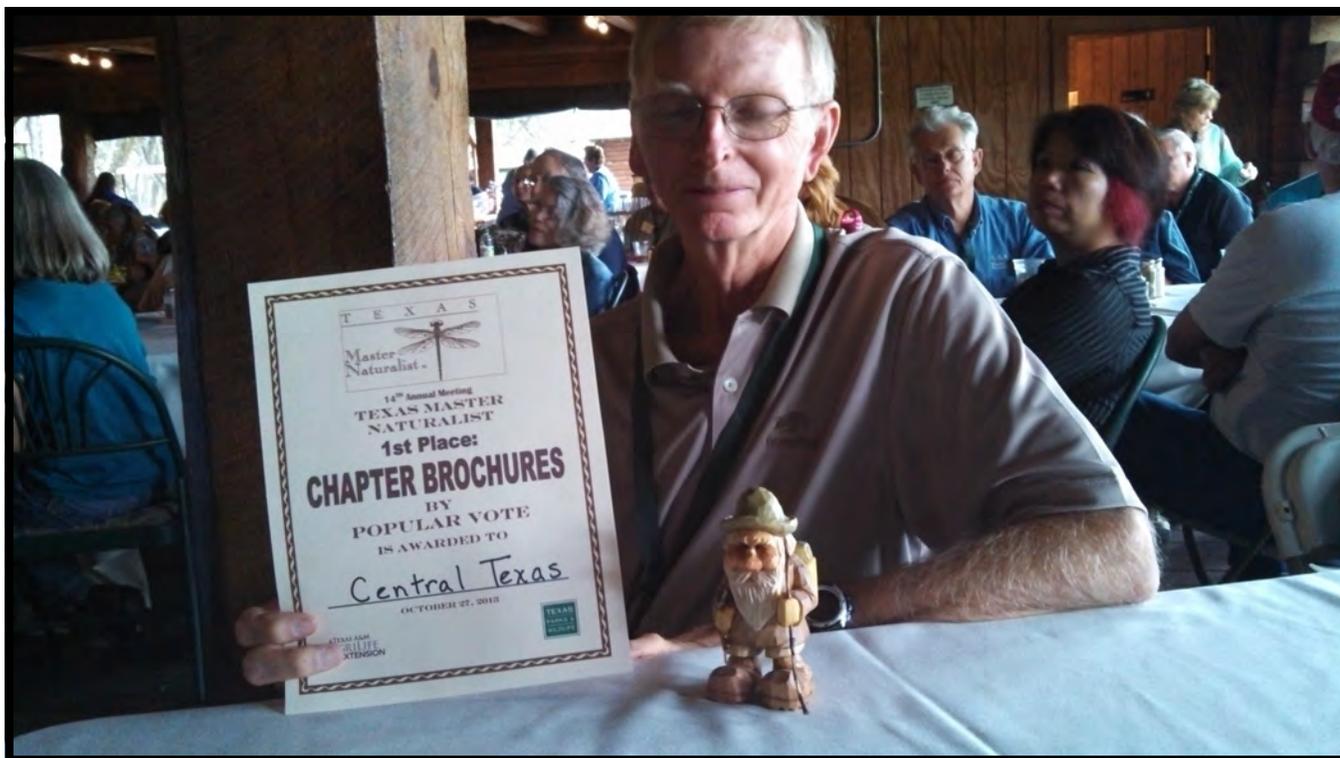
realized that our Chapter is doing quite well for being chartered in 2010. I extend a thank you to our charter members who gave our Central Texas MN a strong foundation. As our membership has grown, our strengths and number of projects has also grown.

As this year winds down, I am pleased with all of our accomplishments for the year in so many different project areas. But I also am looking ahead to Training 2014 and Nature Fest 2014 which will both be here before we know it. Many hands will be needed to successfully carry out Nature Fest and with as many talented and dedicated individuals that are in our chapter, it can be done.

I suppose that more than anything else, I came home renewed and reenergized after this year's State Conference knowing that we have a great chapter. As Texas Master Naturalists we share many common interests and I am proud to be a member of Central Texas Chapter.....Lynn

I am proud to announce that our Central Texas Chapter Master Naturalist brochure won FIRST PLACE at the recent Master Naturalist State Conference. Thanks to Dale Hughling for his hard work on the brochure!

Photo by Lynn Fleming



Mother Neff Workday Makes the News!

- Zoe Rascoe

CTMN Isabell Johnson's husband, Tim Orwig, reporter with the Killeen Daily Herald and volunteer at Mother Neff State Park,



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came out to the October workday to do a story on the Chapter's volunteer work at the Park. Front page news!!!
Photos by Zoe Rascoe

Group Shot!

- Zoe Rascoe



Above, 2013 group shot of Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter; below Travis Tidwell updates the Chapter on the Texas Stream Team's contributions and the Chapter's Stream Team members.

Top photo by Earl Nottingham. Bottom photos by Zoe Rascoe.



Dragonflies Migrate...continued

Darner (*Anax junius*), Varigated Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum corruptum*), Black Saddlebags (*Tamea lacerate*), Wandering Glider (*Pantala flavescens*), and Spot Winged Glider (*Pantala hymendea*); these are the species that the citizen scientists will be monitoring. There are two different monitoring protocols that the citizen scientist can participate in; POND WATCH and MIGRATION MONITORING.

Pond watch participants will visit the same pond or wetland regularly throughout the year and note the presence, emergence and behaviors of any of the five main migratory species.

Migration monitors will monitor timing, duration and direction of travel of migrating dragonflies; and note any additional behaviors observed in the flight such as feeding or mating. Fall migrations may be seen moving south from late July to mid-October.

This monitoring counts as volunteer hours; it is one more citizen science project that will provide valuable data to the scientific community. To get involved go to: www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org. This site has a PDF of the protocols for citizen scientists also a downloadable field guide that contains photos and descriptions of the migratory species. Did you know that dragonflies migrate??



Pictured left: Varigated Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum corruptum*); top right, Black Saddlebags (*Tamea lacerate*), Wandering Glider (*Pantala flavescens*), Spot Winged Glider (*Pantala hymendea*).

Photos from www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org

White Squirrels?

- Jerry Lewis



I found this little guy in my yard on October 12. I have seen him three times since then. When I first saw him I thought, "albino." But when I noticed the hair pigmentation and the dark eyes I knew he wasn't an albino. An albino's eyes are without any color pigmentation and appear to be red or reddish-pink due to the exposing of the blood vessels behind the eye.

I have found that there is much written about "white squirrels." There are four cities in the U. S. and one in Canada that claim to be the "white squirrel capi-

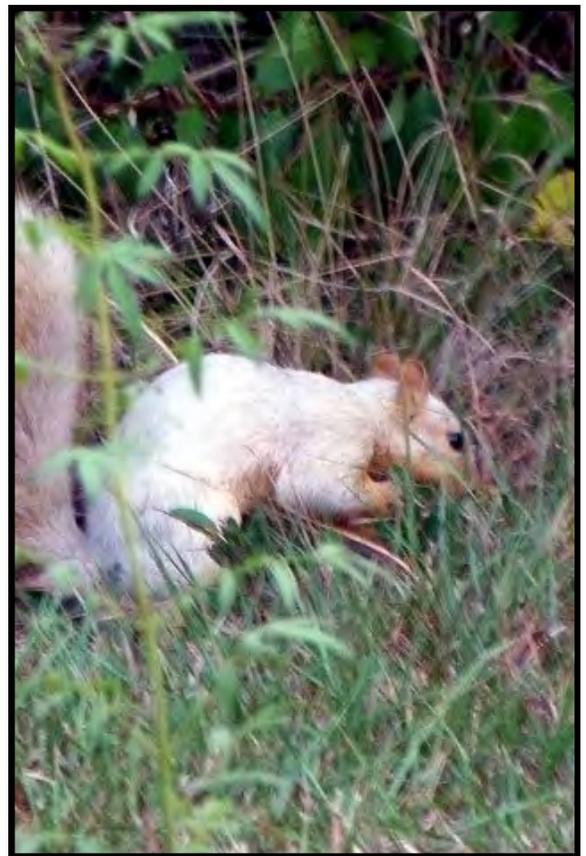


tal." They have white squirrel festivals, white squirrel bike races, white squirrel carnivals, a "Squirrel Box Derby" (a variation of the soapbox derby), and there is even a white squirrel song. In Brevard, N. C., the White Squirrel Research Institute monitors the abundance and distribution of Brevard's unusual color variant of the Eastern Gray Squirrel.

Enough said about other squirrels, what about this one? I contacted Derrick Wolter, Wildlife Biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and received the following information:

"There are no parts of Texas that I am aware of that have white squirrel populations. This looks to be a blond color phase of the fox squirrel. I know that they are sometimes black, too."

Since fox squirrels usually live eight to twelve years, I hope he is around a long time. "Blondie" is a too common and too obvious of a name, so he goes by "Mr. Dithers."



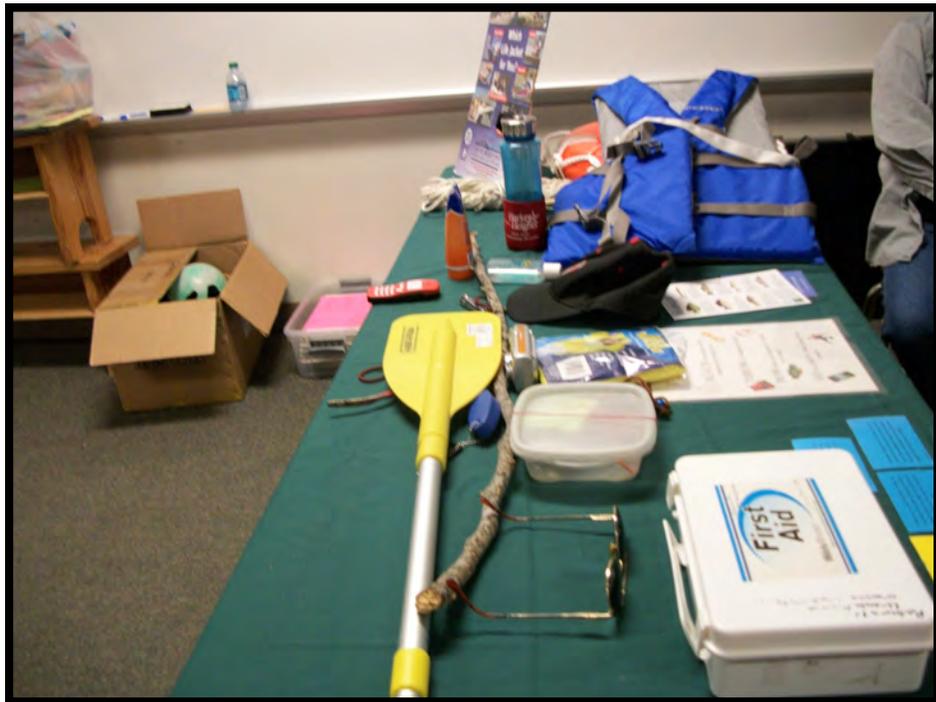
Photos by Jerry Lewis

Angler Instructors Invited to Participate in Brookhaven Elementary Career Day

- Ursula Nanna

On October 24th, 2013, we taught every grade in Brookhaven Elementary from 8am to 2 pm, with at least 38 students per session. From pre-K to 5th grades, the students were fun and liked getting to participate in all 3 docks.

We had a 3' x 4' Poster depicting fishing accidents, which enthralled even the teachers. It really drew questions about what happened or why something happened. This poster has become a great teaching tool for CTMN Angler Instructors. Seeing the accidents drives home how important it is to take care while we have fun.

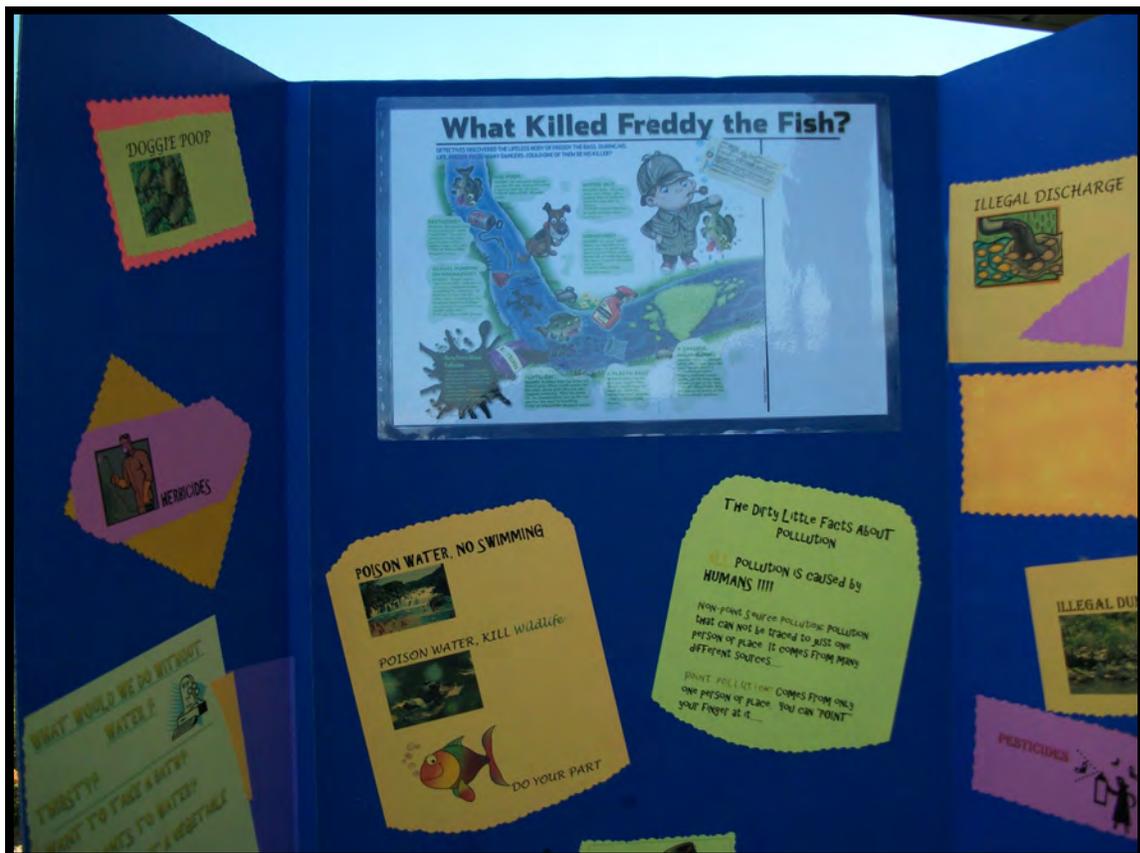


The WHAT KILLED FREDDIE demonstration went very well until the older grades, who could read rather well, saw that doggie 'poopie' was a source of pollution in our lakes, rivers, creeks, and streams. There was no getting over that !!! It didn't matter that herbicides, pesticides, or even fertilizers caused some serious pollution challenges.....doggie poop was the culprit.

The Habitat demonstration of a residential area was truly a hands-on experience where the students could be every pollutant including being rain !!!

All together, we shared Angler Education with 281 students in a rather brief

time span. We're already invited for next year..... Angler Volunteers do a terrific job with the kids.
Photos by Ursula Nanna



Halstead Elementary Science Night

- Ursula Nanna

The teacher from Clear Creek Elementary moved to Halstead Elementary this year. She carried over her desire to introduce something different at Halstead so she pioneered a career night there from 5:30-7 p.m. on October 29th.

Angler Instructors taught at the previous school and were invited to share in the fun at Halstead.

We were asked to demonstrate Fishing Safety with REACH, THROW, ROW, and GO as presented by Gerrie Johnson. Gerrie really enjoyed the addition of our new SAFETY poster to the demo ranks. It sparked a lot of questions and long conversations while Gerrie truly demonstrated Fishing Safety.

Patti Wyman and her daughter, Rhepoey, aptly demonstrated Fish Habitat with all the makings of pollution and what we can do to keep habitats safe. They had monkeys in trees and snakes and frogs on the river banks. There were even farm animals adding to the pollution. With wild-life roaring all around, Patti and



Rhepoey mimicked a healthy habitat.

Ursula Nanna presented the new tri-fold on Freddie-the-Fish encouraging the students and parents to be fertilizer or pesticides or dirt from erosion or even oil. The kids loved seeing what the different “chemicals” did to pollute Freddie’s water and lead to his demise.

It was a fun evening!



Photos by Ursula Nanna

Gathering at the MN State Conference

- Zoe Rascoe

At the Texas Master Naturalist State Conference, the design for the new 2014 Re-certification pin was unveiled and awards were given to several CTMN's. Below, 1000 hour milestone recipients. At bottom is a photo of 500 hour milestone recipients. It's a "Where's Waldo" moment. See if you can find the CTMN's among the rest of the State's recipients.



Photos by Zoe Rascoe



State Conference...continued



Top: 250 hour milestones; above, Mission on a shirt; below, Zoe and Yvonne volunteer as actors for Night Hike Presentation.



Photos by Zoe Rascoe

Fun at the Eco Scavenger Hunt

- Zoe Rascoe

Friar's Creek Eco Scavenger Hunt was hosted by Blackland Research Center on October 18, 2013. Through games and fun, kids learned about water quality testing, animal signs, erosion effects and even cheetah jumps.



Photos by Zoe Rascoe

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

ALSO A BIG **THANKS** FOR YOUR TRAIL SUPPORT

- Richard McCarthy and Marilyn Whitworth



Queens Reign!

- Jerry Lewis

Queen butterflies on Gregg's Blue Mist Flower in my front yard. There are 70-80 total in this one area.



Photos by Richard McCarthy and Jerry Lewis

Awards and Certifications



Clockwise from top left: Richard McCarthy receives his 1,000 hour milestone pin and a box of yummy cookies; Liz Pool receives her 250 hour dragonfly pin and recertifies for 2013; Lyna Pits receives her 250 hour dragonfly pin and recertifies; Yvonne Eele graduates, certifies and recertifies too! Kathy Cantu recertifies; Ray Hughes recertifies; Jerry Lewis recertifies; and Patty Wyman completes her 2013 training. Earl Nottingham, Chief Photographer for TPWD, demonstrates two handy cameras - point & shoot and a cell phone.



- Zoe Rascoe



Photos by Zoe Rascoe



Christmas Party Raffle

- Lynn Fleming

In preparation for the December 10th Christmas Party.....

Happy Holidays to everyone. As we have done for the last few years, there will be a raffle at our annual Christmas party, with all proceeds going to our chapter's ongoing projects and activities. Please consider bringing an unwrapped item to be part of our raffle. Past items have consisted of handmade crafts, nature items, purchased items, or anything decorative or festive. At the party, they will be put out on tables, we will sell tickets for one dollar apiece, and you may put them next to the items you would like to win. It's always a lot of fun to participate, and if you're lucky...go home with something special. If you have any questions, you may call or email Darla Menking at 254-681-2129 or darla.menking@gmail.com.

There will be a little business with the festivities. Our slate of officers up for election are vice president and secretary. The nominees for these two positions are:

Secretary -- Ray Hughes and Vice-President -- Jerry Lewis. Elections will be held at the meeting.

Annual dues are coming around again. If you wish to pay them at the December meeting, they are still just \$24. Checks may be made out to CTMN and given to Don Wyatt.

Please RSVP to Zoe at the email or phone number below.

Hope to see you there.....



Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter

4th Annual Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 10th

6:30pm

Potluck Dinner

Home of Zoe Rascoe

1900 N. 13th Street, Temple

Please RSVP by Monday, Dec. 9th to Zoe at 254-913-1013 or trascoe@hot.rr.com

Bring your favorite dish to share. Spouse or significant other is welcome to join you for an evening of food, fun and fellowship.

Announcements

Standing monthly events

Salado Sculpture Garden Workday: 1st Mondays at 8:30 a.m. (contact Miriam Jordon, mejcom@gmail.com or Becky Denton beckyden-ton@embarqmail.com) **V**

Miller Springs Nature Area Workdays: 2nd Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. (contact Mary Ann Everett, everett.maryann4@gmail.com) **V**

Mother Neff State Park Workdays: 3rd Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. (contact Yvonne Eele, yeele@ymail.com) **V**

Nolan Creek Trail Maintenance: 5th Mondays at 8:00 a.m. (contact Mary Ann Everett, everett.maryann4@gmail.com) **V**

On the Calendar

- Yvonne Eele

Ongoing Volunteer opportunity: We are still needing committee chairs for various Nature Fest committees. If you would like to assist or would like to suggest someone, from CTMN or surrounding chapters, to be a chair contact Lynn Fleming lynn.fleming99@gmail.com

Ongoing Volunteer opportunity: If you have any chainsaw skills and would be interested in assisting to blaze a new trail at Mother Neff State Park, Please let Yvonne Eele know when you are available. Contact: Yvonne Eele yeele@ymail.com

December 3, 9:00-noon, Waco Wetlands 2nd grade field trip

Contact: Nora Schell NoraS@ci.waco.tx.us

December 10, 6:00 CTMN Christmas Party and Elections

Contact Lynn Fleming lynn.fleming99@gmail.com

December 14, 10:00-6:00, Angler Ed Christmas on the Farm

Contact Ursula Nanna fishingpole16@gmail.com

January 11, 9:00-12:00, Mother Neff work day with Killeen Scout troop 287

Contact: Yvonne Eele yeele@ymail.com

January 14, 6:00-8:00, CTMN PACE meeting

Contact: Lynn Fleming lynn.fleming99@gmail.com

If you have an event to add to the mailing please send it to yeele@ymail.com, make sure to include the time and date as well as contact information. If you are a project coordinator, please check the information on your event and alert me of any corrections I need to make. If you would like to stop receiving these e-mails please reply, letting me know.

All above events: **V**

Thank You

Let's Help AWARE!

- Ursula Nanna

We have been invited to participate in the Aware Central Texas Christmas on the Farm, December 14, 2013, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Expo Center. We are asked to have a casting booth. We are also asked to donate any lightly-used or new items for their auction. For this purpose, there is a plastic crate at the entrance of the Agrilife Bldg, marked AWARE, in which to drop your donations during office hours.

Aware Central Texas is a child abuse and prevention organization located on Main St. Belton.

Please volunteer for casting, mark your calendar and donate toys, house-goods, whatever you can.

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

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."

Board of Directors

President: Lynn Fleming

Vice President: Zoe Rascoe

Secretary: Louann Hight

Treasurer: Don Wyatt

Web Master: Dale Hughling

Membership: Sandy Summers

Historian: Liz Poole

Host: Marilyn Whitworth

Newsletter: Gail Hughling

Chapter Advisors:

Lyle Zoeller,
County Extension Agent, Natural Resources

Derrick Wolter,
Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife

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Newsletter Committee Chair: Gail Hughling

Editor: Terrie Hahn

Proofreader: Werner Hahn

Contributing Writers: Richard McCarthy, Lynn Fleming, Ursula Nanna, Yvonne Eele, Zoe Rascoe, Jerry Lewis

Contributing Photographers: Lynn Fleming, Zoe Rascoe, Ursula Nanna, Jerry Lewis, Richard McCarthy

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

Left photo, a very wet and cold road runner on our driveway; right, this little guy had made his way into our second floor hallway. I think he'll be happier back outside again. - Terrie

Photos by Terrie Hahn

