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Education at Colorado Bend State Park

- Yvonne Eele

We were finally able to have our long awaited Interpretive day at Colorado Bend. Since they do not have a Master Naturalist Chapter near them they decided to reach out to us and other surrounding Chapters to see if we would be interested in doing any activities and partnering with them.



CTMN volunteers Jerrie Cooper, Patti Wyman, Sue Valdez, Kevin Prince and Kathy Cantu.

Banner photos by Werner Hahn of Colorado Bend State Park in July, 2011 and September, 2013. Story photo by Yvonne Eele.

Colorado Bend is a remote, quiet park along the Little Colorado River. Not far from Lampasas, it is a perfect place for hiking, bird watching, and learning about habitat. It is made up of 5,328 acres in San Saba and Lampasas Counties.

Kathy Cantu with assistance from Sue Valdez took a group

continued on page 2...

Calendar at a Glance

Next Chapter Meeting, February 11, 6 pm

Check out "On the Calendar" on page 11.

Home and Garden Show at the Expo Center, February 21-23. See page 10.

New Class Orientation, March 25

Chapter Motto

Earth Day, Every Day



From the President's Pen

As the calendar turns....

2014 has arrived. I have never really liked the month of January—it's cold and it's tax time. But there are bright spots in January. Both of my kid's birthdays are in January, the cows are having babies like crazy and it is a time for new beginnings. Spring will be here soon and with it greener times.

As we turn the calendar to 2014, I look forward to what is in store for our Chapter as Master Naturalists. Jerry Lewis has taken on his title as vice-president and has lined up speakers for the entire year of meetings. Yvonne Eele has led a group to Colorado Bend State Park for some good outdoor adventure and was very well received. Our new training class will be forming soon and getting underway. Nature Fest 2014 is in the planning stages, beginning to take shape. Exciting times indeed!

For the 2013 Annual Report, our Chapter logged 5,257 volunteer hours and 783 advanced training

hours. Ninety-one events were held during the year. Wow! We have been busy!

I expect 2014 will be just as busy or busier. There is such a variety of things going on and I urge each of you to get involved where you can. Attend a training session or two; come out for a workday at Mother Neff, Miller Springs or the Sculpture Garden. Sign up to help at the Home and Garden show, the list is full of opportunities.

I have heard comments from some in our chapter that they don't know all of our members. Let's try to get to know everyone in our chapter this year. And what better way than getting out and participating in events. We have a roster full of very interesting people who are interested in the same thing—learning about nature and sharing with others. So keep an eye on Yvonne's weekly update for what's going on...and then come join the fun. Come on out—Nature is calling....Lynn

Colorado Bend...continued

hiking to see what birds they could find. Her list included Red-tailed hawk, Great Blue Heron, Ladder Backed Woodpecker, and Spotted towhee as well as others you can ask her about.

While they were gone Patty Wyman, Jerrie Cooper, Kevin Prince, and Yvonne Eele talked to Boy scouts about Habitat and ways we can help preserve it. Each of the scouts received a scavenger hunt sheet to help them look at nature as they went on a hike throughout the day.



We are hoping to assist the staff at Colorado Bend State Park again in the near future. There is a tentative plan to do a project at the park during spring break. If you would be interested or have some ideas please contact Yvonne Eele yeele@ymail.com

Above: Boy Scouts participate in a Marine Habitat activity with Jerrie, Patty and Kevin.

Photo by Yvonne Eele

Congratulations Patti!

The following is a copy of "Volunteer Spotlight" that was in the "Meadows Center for Water and the Environments Fall 2013 Newsletter." - **Richard McCarthy**

Volunteer Spotlight:

Patricia Wyman and the Creek Freeks!

By: **Lindsay Sansom**

Being a sixth grader is bad enough without being labeled a freak. However, for Mrs. Wyman's class, that is exactly what the Gateway Middle schoolers wanted to be called; Creek Freek! Mrs. Patricia Wyman was chosen for the volunteer spotlight this fall because of her upstanding efforts to educate the young people about the importance of keeping creeks, streams, and rivers clean and protecting the natural heritage of their hometown Killeen, Texas.

Patricia Wyman became a Texas Stream Team (TST) citizen scientist water quality monitor at UT's Environmental science institute about two years ago. A Texas State University Alumni (94), Patricia has dedicated herself to becoming a strong environmental steward through volunteering and continued education opportunities. In addition to becoming a TST citizen scientist Wyman recently joined the ranks of the Texas Master Naturalists, where she continues her volunteer efforts for such organizations as Shots across Texas and Boy Scouts of America. Mrs. Wyman started the Creek Freeks as a way to engage her students in hands-on, experimental learning in an outdoor setting.

The Creek Freeks had just begun to monitor a nearby tributary of Nolan Creek, when an arsonist set fire to the Gateway Middle School. The school was temporarily moved across town, and while classes are now being held back on the regular campus, there are still renovations occurring. For now the Creek Freeks will have to do their water quality testing in the classroom. However, renovations should be completed in time for the cooler weather, which will allow more outside sampling. In preparation for this, Mrs. Wyman has gone above and beyond by taking the Advanced TST training so that she can now measure nutrients, in-

cluding nitrates/nitrites, phosphates, and E. Coli. By connecting the concepts of water quality with a creek that many of the children play in, Mrs. Wyman hopes to help the children understand how poor water quality can negatively impact aquatic life in the creek.

The efforts of Mrs. Wyman, and other TST Citizen Scientists in the Killeen area, also contribute data collection to the Watershed Protection Plan for Nolan Creek. Since 1996, segment 1218 of Nolan Creek has been listed as impaired on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQs) 303(d) List; in 2010 concerns over other nutrients were added to the list for his segment. The City of Killeen, in conjunction with local and state project partners and regional stakeholders are currently in the process of developing a Watershed Protection Plan, which will include developing a Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) for Nolan Creek.

In the meantime, Mrs. Wyman and the Creek Freeks continue to learn about the vital importance of maintaining a healthy ecosystem, good water quality, and sound environmental stewardship. Texas Stream Team would like to recognize the great work of Mrs. Patricia Wyman; thank you for educating the next generation of water stewards!

"The most important part of water quality monitoring I try to impart to my students is that water is essential for all life on this planet. We must be stewards of this earth and understand that all creatures have a right to live and drink clean water. By keeping trash in our cars and by not pouring dangerous substances down the drain, we can help out. I want them to know even the smallest efforts will have a major impact on some little creek critter"- Mrs. Patricia Wyman, 6th Grade Teacher, Gateway Middle School, Killeen, Texas.

Boy Scouts Aid CTMN's at Mother Neff

- Yvonne Eele

On January 8, Mother Neff State Park was invaded by Boy Scout Troop 287 from Killeen. They came out to help to help Central Texas Master Naturalists work on the new trail that has been progressing. Nineteen members of the Scout troop and two Master Naturalists put in a total of 63 hours for the day. Sue Valdez and Mary Ann Everett were the CTMN contingent that worked with the boys to mark the trail, pick up barbed wire and drag limbs and other debris off the trail.



On January 16, Sue Valdez, Sam Priory, and Kathy Cantu went to Mother Neff for the regular CTMN workday and picked right up where the scouts had left off. Each time we hit the trail, we knock a little more off so it can soon be opened to the public. There is still some chainsaw work and taking down a barbed wire fence but we can use any help with everything from moving rocks to marking the trail to lopping and pruning.

There is another Boy Scout Troop, this time from Copperas Cove going to work on the trail on February 8, and the regular CTMN workday on February 20. Come on out and join in the fun and show your support for the Mother Neff workday.



Top photo is of Boy Scouts helping out Mary Ann and Sue; bottom photo is Kathy, Sue and Sam at the regularly scheduled Mother Neff Work Day.

Photos by Yvonne Eele

Christmas on the Farm

- Ursula Nanna

Whoa, hold your horses!!!! Aware Central Texas hosted their grand fundraiser at the Expo Center on Saturday, December 14, 2013. The proceeds will go to child abuse prevention as they intercede in domestic violence.

Central Texas Master Naturalist's Angler Casting booth was visited by youth and adults alike. Don Wyatt, Lyna Pitts, Patti Wyman, Kathy Cantu, Ursula Nanna, kept in motion the continuous line of eager anglers of all ages. Miriam Jordon, Gerrie Johnson, and Carolyn Stewart collected tickets and kept the head count. From 10 am to 6 pm we were casting and giving out prizes and applauding award-winning anglers—over 600 visited our little casting area - 602 to be exact. We donated 59.5 hours to Central Texas Master Naturalists to wrap up the year definitely beating our total contacts of the previous year.

We were graciously assisted by Terri Gullig – a Bell County Master Gardener, and both Brenda Albro and Carla Harmon, Certified Angler Instructors and Bell County Master Gardeners.

This opportunity could never have happened without the wonderful volunteers and Angler Instructors. A

very special **thank you** goes to Yvonne Eele for taking care to give us a wonderful spot for our booth and for her constant attention to our needs in that booth.

I truly thank each and every one of you, and, please know we contributed mightily to Aware Central Texas as they reach out to meet the needs of the community.



Above and below: Some fancy-casting happy prize winners at Casting During the Christmas On The Farm event!!!



Angler Success for 2013

Excellent results in 2013 for CTMN:

These are the compilation of ANGLER EDUCATION volunteer results for 2013:

23 Events with 67 Activities and 3,922 Direct Contacts with 80 volunteers and 514 CTMN hours.

This beats 2012's results by 6 Events, 9 Activities, and 1312 Direct Contacts.

Photos by Ursula Nanna

CTMN's Swap Info at the National Seed Swap Day

- Zoe Rascoe

On January 25th CTMN members participated in a National Seed Swap Day event hosted by Harker Heights Parks Department. In addition to the three CTMN activities, informational booths were set up by local nurseries, a honey farm, high schoolers and Bell County Master Gardeners. It was better than a Swap Meet - visitors did not have to bring seeds or plants to go home with the makings of a garden for free. It was a great opportunity to recruit for our upcoming spring training class as many of the attendees were outdoor kind of folks. In addition to the CTMN members in the photos, others who participated were Marilyn Whitworth, Sandy Summers and Dale Hughling.

Photos by Zoe Rascoe



From Top: Lori Nunke, Carolyn Stewart and Gail Hughling show Zoe Rascoe the Water Cycle bead activity; Zoe recruits for the 2014 Master Naturalist Course; Carolyn Stewart uses a fun activity with beads to demonstrate the Water Cycle; Richard McCarthy demonstrates adhesion and cohesion in water using a penny.



2014 Training Course Open

- Zoe Rascoe

We are now taking applications for the 2014 Training Course. Please be a recruiter for our chapter! Do you have friends, neighbors, co-workers or relatives that enjoy the outdoors? Be sure they know about the Texas Master Naturalist program - if they are not interested, they may know someone who might want to join us. Orientation will be Tuesday evening, March 25th. Please mark your calendars now and plan to come and meet the new trainees. Training dates will be Tuesdays, April 1st through May 20th - with the exception of April 8th (our regular chapter meeting day.) If it was encouraging to you to have chapter members attend your classes throughout the course, then please consider doing the same for this new group of trainees. They will get to know our members and be more likely to volunteer during the training months if they have someone they have met with which to work. If you can take this a step further and be a mentor for a trainee, we need you! Just let Yvonne Eele know you are interested and she will get you matched up with just the right trainee.



Become a
**TEXAS
MASTER
NATURALIST**

2014 Training Class

**7 Tuesdays:
April 1 – May 20, 2014**

Applications
Available

For information on the Texas
Master Naturalist Program contact:

Zoe Rascoe 254-913-1013
MaryAnn Everett 254-721-0931

txmn.org/centraltexas



Awards and Certifications



Clockwise from top left: Elections for VP and Secretary at the annual Christmas Party; Lynn Fleming receives her 500 Hour Milestone; Yvonne Eele receives her 250 Hour Milestone; Ray Kozusko receives his 250 Hour Milestone; Don Wyatt receives his 250 Hour Milestone, and his Monarch pin for recertification; Becky Denton, Darla Menking, Terrie Hahn and Gerrie Johnson all receive their recertification pins. - **Zoe Rascoe**



Announcements

Need Hours???

- Richard McCarthy

Having difficulty accumulating hours to meet certification, re-certification requirements? The following are several areas in which one can set their own hours and days to acquire approved hours and make a contribution to the scientific community.

Texas Parks and Wildlife has several citizen science projects which are approved for Master Naturalist hours. These are the "Texas Nature Tracker" projects: Texas Horned Lizard Watch, Texas Black-tailed Prairie Dog Watch, Texas Whooper Watch, Texas Mussel Watch, Tarpon Observation Network, Texas Amphibian Watch, Texas Bumblebee Watch. All of these programs can be found at (www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildlife). The website provides all the information necessary to become an effective recorder for the watch selected. Identification details and reporting forms and requirements are provided.

The Fort Worth Zoo: (www.fortworthzoo.org/conservation) is collecting information from around the state on turtle population and locations. Their primary interests are the Red Eared Slider, Texas River Cooter and the Soft Shelled Turtles. All of the necessary identification and reporting requirements can be found at Fort Worth Zoo website.

Project Nest Watch (<http://nestwatch.org>). This project is conducted during the nesting season and involves watching nest boxes, bird nests, egg counts, and chick and fledgling counts. The monitoring reports are sent to Cornell University to monitor bird populations throughout the U.S. Training is provided on the website.

Texas Hummingbird Roundup (<http://tinyurl.com/hummingbird-survey>). Observers report hummingbird spring arrivals and fall departures. Also reporting any that may overwinter and visit feeders in the winter.

Dragonfly migration:

(www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org). This partnership relies on input from volunteers in the U.S,

Canada & Mexico to track the migration routes of five primary migrating dragonflies. Protocol for reporting as well as identification charts are available on the website. Spring and fall migrations are tracked.

Texas Stream Team (txstreamteam@txstate.edu). Volunteers sample (monitor) streams in their area for dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity and visual effects. This is done on a monthly basis and takes only about one to two hours to complete. Monitors must be trained. Training is scheduled for May 17, 2014.

Cities, Counties and state parks are also in need of volunteers for enhancement of their programs. These agencies can be contacted directly to plan a project that you are interested in. Submit your proposal to the training committee for approval.

These are but a few suggestions as starting points in the quest for hours and service to the environmental community and all can be done on your schedule. Once you become involved in one area it seems that many opportunities arise.

Our next Chapter Meeting....

- Lynn Fleming

The February Central Texas Chapter Master Naturalist meeting will be Tuesday, February 11th starting at 6:00pm at the Belton Church of Christ (3003 N. Main). The speaker for the evening will be Leah Huth, Ranger at Mother Neff State Park. She will present "Mother Neff State Park, A Legacy Lives On."

Volunteering at Mother Neff is one of our chapter projects and this is a great opportunity to learn more about the FIRST State Park in Texas. It is loaded with history from Native Americans, Civilian Conservation Corps and more.

We hope to have several guests at the meeting, so please try to come out and give them a warm welcome! If you know of someone who might be interested in becoming a Texas Master Naturalist, invite them to come to the meeting and visit. Our 2014 Training Class will begin soon!

Hope to see you on the 11th!

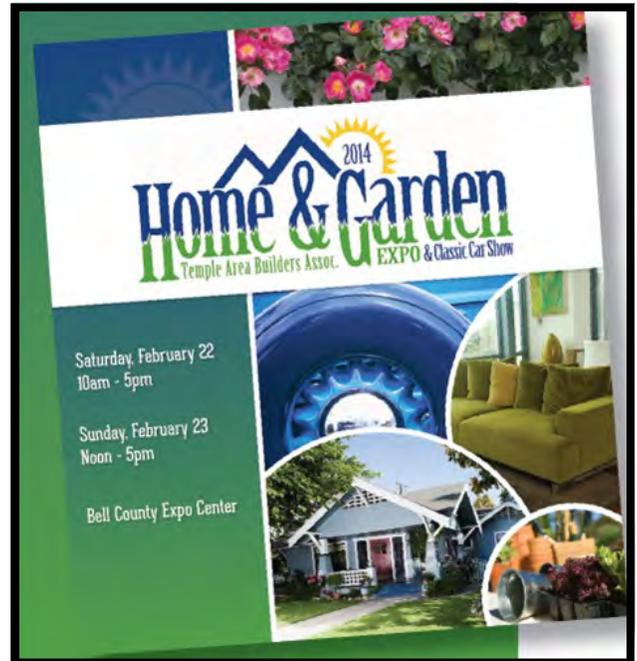
Announcements

Work the 2014 Home & Garden Show Feb. 21-23

- Zoe Rascoe

For the third year, CTMN will have a booth at the Home & Garden Show donated by Temple Area Builders Association. We will make great use of this opportunity to lure some of the thousands of attendees into our booth to purchase bird and bat houses and other outdoor items made by our members, as well as sell the handy laminated nature guides designed for Central Texas. The money raised from sales will help fund chapter projects. We will also be recruiting for the 2014 Training Course which starts April 1st (no fooling.) We have been getting more trainees from the Home and Garden Show than any other single recruiting effort. Booth workers are needed for Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday shifts. Work any day and time slot you have available. Get your year off to a good start with Volunteer Service hours for this important event! Contact Zoe Rascoe for available shifts - we need 4-6 folks per shift for the duration of the show. That's a lotta helpers! Hope you will be one of them.

Pictured here from last year's Home and Garden Show are right: Lynn Fleming and Don Wyatt selling nature guides; below: CTMN booth shift workers, Don Wyatt, Mary Ann Everett, Louann Hight, Gerrie Johnson, Diane Cooney and Zoe Rascoe with giant grasshopper puppet.



Photos by Zoe Rascoe

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

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

On The Calendar

February 1, 9:00-3:00 (V) Miller Springs Workday
Contact Mary Ann Everett
everett.maryann4@gmail.com

Saturday, Feb. 8 (AT) Skywarn at Belton ISD Admin Bldg (Cafeteria) 9:00 a.m. - noon (basic) 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Advanced) Free to the public, no advanced registration

February 8, 9:00-12:00 (V) BSA troop from Copperas

Cove at Mother Neff

Contact: Yvonne Eele yeele@ymail.com

February 11, 6:00 (AT) CTMN General Meeting:
Mother Neff State Park Superintendent Leah Huth will be the guest speaker

Contact Lynn Fleming at lynn.fleming99@gmail.com or Jerry Lewis at lewis1@hot.rr.com

February 13, 9:15-1:00 (V) Science Fair Judging at Saint Mary's School

Contact Zoe Rascoe trascoc@hot.rr.com

February 15, 9:00-12:00 (V) Birdhouse building workday for fund raiser.

Contact Dale Hughling dalehughling@aol.com

February 20, 9:00-Noon (V) Mother Neff Workday

Contact: Yvonne Eele yeele@ymail.com

February 21-23 (V) Temple Home and Garden Show at the Bell County Expo Center (See Zoe Rascoe for times)

Contact: Zoe Rascoe trascoc@hot.rr.com

February 28, 2:00-3:00 (AT) Texas The State Of Water

Contact Richard McCarthy rgm3372010@live.com

March 6, 8:00 am-2:30 (V) Saegert Elementary Math and Science Day

Contact: fishingpole16@gmail.com

March 25, 7:00-9:00 (V) New **Class Orientation**

Contact: Zoe Rascoe or Mary Ann Everett trascoc@hot.rr.com or everett.maryann4@gmail.com

If interested in mentoring the new class please contact Yvonne at yeele@ymail.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 and contact information.

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

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Membership: Sandy Summers

Historian: Liz Poole

Host: Marilyn Whitworth

Newsletter: Gail Hughling

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Editor: Terrie Hahn

Proofreader: Werner Hahn

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

Contributing Photographers: Zoe Rascoe, Yvonne Eele, Ursula Nanna, Werner Hahn, Terrie 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

Chapter Advisors:

Lyle Zoeller,
County Extension Agent, Natural Resources

Derrick Wolter,
Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Below: deer and bees devouring our gingerbread house on one of our warm days in January.

- Terrie Hahn

