



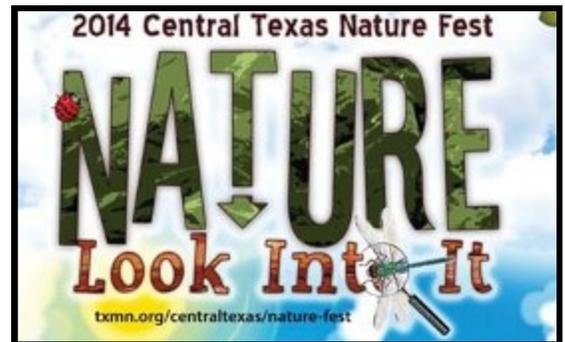
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Nature Fest 2014 Are You Ready?!



- Zoe Rascoe

Our first Nature Fest to host in Bell County is Saturday, October 18th - but I bet you already knew that. Many of our members have been working on this event for over a year! Nature Fest 2014 will be a fun and educational event for the whole family with exhibits, activities and seminars that focus on the rich diversity of wildlife, habitat, history and heritage of Central Texas - explore nature!



Banner photo: some of the first Blue Bonnets to come up - right after the rain middle of September-Terrie Hahn

The Nature Fest is Chaired by Jacki Bakker and was devel-

oped around the Elements of Earth, Wind (well, Air actually), Fire and Water which have been chaired by Rehanon Pampell, Mary Ann Everett, Patti Wyman and Gerrie Johnson respectively. These Chairs and their teams have lined up about 45 exhibitors representing state and federal agencies such as Texas Parks & Wildlife, US Fish & Wildlife, US Army Corp of Engineers, AgriLife Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, along with nonprofit nature and environmental organizations that include Audubon, American Bird Conservancy, Baylor's Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research, Mayborn Science Museum, Miller Springs Alliance, Texas Stream Team, Native Prairie Association of

Continued on page 4...

Calendar at a Glance	
Bell County Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale, October 4, 7 am - 1 pm	
September hours due, October 5	
General Meeting, October 14, 6 p.m.	
Nature Fest, October 18, 9 am - 2 pm	
Mother Neff work day changed to October 23	
State Conference, October 24-26	
Mother Neff Harvest Hay Ride, November 1, 2 pm - dusk	

Chapter Motto
**Earth Day,
Every Day**



From the Editor's Camera

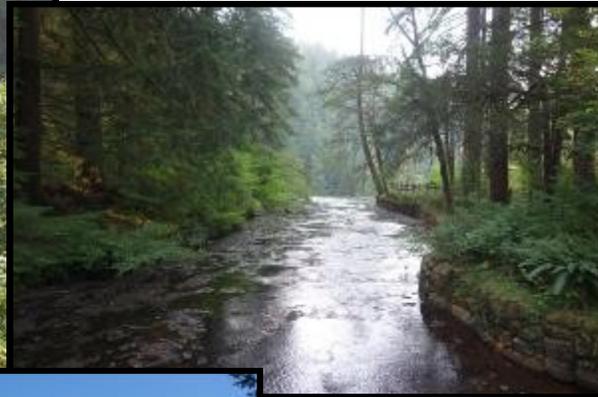
Lynn had a lot on her plate this month, so I offered to put in some photos in place of her President's Letter. So here is a hodge podge of photos I've taken.



The blooms to the right are Thryallis, a great deer resistant shrub native to this area. On page 7, you'll find a Rain Lily and Four O'Clock. The



other photos here are from our recent trip to Oregon. The waterfall and view from above (can you imagine canoeing down the river only to find yourself at the top of this waterfall). It's the South Falls in Silver Falls State Park. The tide pool photos are outside Newport. The ranger told



us to gently touch these creatures with two fingers. These are sea anemones, starfish, and sea urchins (the purple creatures). The sea urchins dig themselves into the sand and grab passing stones as the tide goes out to protect themselves from predators and the sun at low tide. The view of the ocean is from Cape Lookout. - Terrie



Spotlight on Invasives



Tarantulas

Editor's Note: I usually don't write stories, but when I took a photo of the second tarantula this week near the house, I thought it might be fun to find an article on them. This is taken from Wizzie Brown's Blog: <http://urban-ipm.blogspot.com>. She is the Travis County AgriLife Entomologist.

- Wizzie Brown

Tarantulas are probably the heaviest spiders that we have in Texas. Their bodies can be up to 1 1/2 inches long and they get even larger when you add in their leg span. Tarantulas create burrows either by digging one or using natural cavities under rocks, logs, etc. Sometimes they'll line the burrow with silk and add a few lines in front of the burrow to help detect prey that might wander past. Tarantulas eat things such as crickets, grasshoppers, beetles and caterpillars, so they are beneficial and help reduce pests that may be wandering around in your yard.

While the size and hairiness of tarantulas freaks most people out, they really are fairly harmless. Of course, they have fangs and are capable of biting, but typically their venom doesn't react with our body chemistry in a negative way. Tarantulas will let you know if you are upsetting them to allow you ample time to move away- they'll rear up on their hind legs and put their front legs into the air. If you see one do this, then leave it alone. Tarantulas may also brush their legs along their abdomen when threatened to brush off urticating hairs that can cause irritation to the eyes or skin.

Seen outside the Hahn house.

Photos of spiders by Terrie Hahn



...and Garden Spiders

This female Garden Spider and egg sac were on a fence just outside our house.

This is graffiti art that was sent to me using real plants with painted graffiti on the wall. I can't give credit since it came as an email to me with no photo or artist credit.



Nature Fest...continued

Texas, Bell County Master Gardeners, Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District, other Master Naturalist chapters and Safe Kids. Some of our members will be serving as exhibitors as well - with a big showing from our Angler Ed crew! Check out some of the exhibit topics in the box to the right. Gail Hughling has also recruited vendors who will be selling nature-related products.

If you haven't already been asked to help with Nature Fest, it's an oversight! Won't you let us know? We are needing volunteers in a number of areas, including manning our CTMN booth, and I'm certain we can find something to suit your interest and your schedule. It's a great opportunity to get in some volunteer service hours before the end of the year! Please call or email Zoe Rascoe if you are able to help either before the 18th or on the 18th (or both) - it's going to be a great event for Central Texas and we want you to be a part of the success!

Zoe: 254-913-1013 (cell) trascoe@hotmail.com

Military Departments of Blackland Host Local Schools

- Ursula Nanna

On July 22, 2014, a very select group was chosen to present topics to 2 area schools at Blackland from 9 am to 2:30 pm. Kayler Campbell gave lots of information on milking and how good milk is for us. She described most of the milking cows and their country of origin and the amount of milk each can give.

Our very own Patti Wyman presented the Water Cycle. The kids were excited to know we are drinking the same water the dinosaurs drank!! With 70% water covering the earth and only 1 % available for drinking, she stressed how we must conserve our water.

Todd Strait did his rendition of the rainfall simulator stressing how we waste water in many ways we don't think about. Tony Owen gave a terrific class on tree ID from the leaves to the bark while Lisa Prcin floored the kids with Aqua Charades and the 4 most critical pollutants we can control....oil, bacteria, sediment, and nutrients. This was an interesting class for the kids and one I have never seen. We all learned new things while participating with the kids.

Sampling of Exhibit Topics (but wait, there's more!):

Snakes of Central Texas
Hummingbirds
Angler Education
Birding and Binoculars
Local Geology
Stargazing and Light Pollution
Nature Painting
Weather Watching
Feral Hog Control
Water Safety
Kayak Fishing - Anchors to Zip ties
Prescribed Burns for Native Prairies
Controlling Invasive Plants
Native Plants
Animal Tracks
Texas Crawdads
Stream Invertebrates
Plight of the Passenger Pigeon
Horned Lizards and Their Habitat
Bats of Texas
Flint Knapping
Insect Collecting
Gault Archeology Site
Bell County Fire House Demonstration Trailer
Operation Game Thief Trailer

Central Texas Master Naturalists Presents:

A day packed full of activities and
exhibitions for the whole family to explore
Central Texas wildlife and wild places.

2014 Central Texas Nature Fest

NATURE

Look Into It

txmn.org/centraltexas/nature-fest

Live native wildlife
History
Games

Arts & Crafts
Local food trucks
Wild Exhibits

Free Admission
\$5 parking



October 18, 2014 9 am - 2 pm

Bend of the River 7915 South General Bruce Drive Temple, TX 76502

Lots of Recertifications

- Zoe Rascoe

The following Master Naturalists received their 2014 recertification pins at the August General meeting: Mary Ann Everett, Ray Hughes, Dale Hughling, Richard McCarthy, Ursula Nanna, Mary Odom and Don Wyatt. Terrie Hahn received her 250 hour milestone pin.

Gail McAdoo from



the Clearwater MN chapter in Georgetown showed us the film "Green Fire" on environmentalist, Aldo Leopold.





Remembering...

Melissa Fletcher

On a sad note, Melissa Fletcher who became a member of our chapter in 2013, has passed away after a hard fight with cancer. She was a vibrant, wonderful person who will be missed. Rest in peace Melissa. -Lynn



BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2014 FALL PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, October 4, 2014 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 1:00 P.M.



Mimulus & Checkerspots
by Margo Bors

**Native Perennials
Organic Vegetables
Herbs, Succulents
Native Trees
Roses**

**FREE INFORMATION BOOTHS
COMPOSTING – RAINWATER
HARVESTING
KIDS CAMP – ASK A MASTER
GARDENER
LOCAL VENDORS**

**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

**MASTER GARDENER BUILDING
BELL COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**

**1605 N. MAIN
BELTON, TX 76513**



Upcoming Events

Mother Neff Hay Ride and Work Day Info

- Yvonne Elee

Mother Neff State Park and the Mother Neff State Park Association are having a harvest hay ride **on November 1 from 2pm until dusk**. Leah has asked for volunteers for the touch table, sack races, and registration, as well as other activities. Please contact Yvonne if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

The Mother Neff work day for October will be moved from **October 16 to October 23** so that the week before Nature Fest we can concentrate on getting everything ready for Saturday.

Yvonne Eele

yeele@ymail.com

254-247-7256

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

On The Calendar

October 5, By Midnight. September Hours due CTMN.bell@gmail.com

October 14, 6:00-7:00 AT CTMN General Meeting. Todd Straight from Clearwater Underground Water District will be our speaker

Contact: Lynn Fleming lynn.fleming99@gmail.com or Jerry Lewis lewis1@hotmail.com

October 9, 8:00 until done V Miller Springs work day

Contact Mary Ann Everett everett.maryann4@gmail.com

October 18, 9:00-2:00 V Nature Fest

Contact: Lynn Fleming lynn.fleming99@gmail.com or Jerry Lewis lewis1@hotmail.com

October 23, 9:00-noon V Mother Neff State Park Workday

Contact: Yvonne Eele yeele@ymail.com

October 30, 8:00- until finished V Nolan Creek Hike and Bike trail clean up

Contact: Mary Ann Everett everett.maryann4@gmail.com

FYI

Bell County Master Gardeners are having their Fall Plant Sale this **Saturday, October 4th** at the AgriLife Center in Belton. It's from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. They'll have a huge assortment of plants that you can check out on their website www.txmg.org/bell. Scroll down to the bottom to find the selection.

The Wildflower Center is having their Fall Plant sale if you missed the MG's. It's the following weekend, October 11-12. <http://www.wildflower.org/plantsale/>

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

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Newsletter Staff

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Contributing Writers: Zoe Rascoe, Ursula Nanna, Yvonne Eele, Wizzie Brown, Lynn Fleming

Contributing Photographers: Zoe Rascoe, 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

Graffiti art/plants

