

# The Tracker

The Central Texas Master Naturalist Newsletter October 2018

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## Calendar at a Glance

Oct 25: Bell County Museum
Oct 26: ACOE Pond Project
Oct 26-28: 19th Annual TMN Conference—Georgetown
Oct 27: Mother Neff State Park Fall Festival
Nov 5: 1st Mon -Salado Museum
Nov 13: CTMN Chapter Meeting
Nov 29: Nolan Creek Trail Work

## The Many Lives of Joe Dorn

### - As told by Joe Dorn

*Editor's note: In an email about weather, Joe followed a rabbit trail of thought that led him to ask if I knew a friend of his who was an Emergency Department physician. I do know some ED docs, but not Joe's friend. He said they had met as a result of his "Evil Knieval" incident. I want to know that know that story, I said. Which led to this recounting of several of Joe Dorn's 9 lives.*

I have had several body damaging incidents, but fortunately I have a great Guardian Angel.

I was a premature birth "blue" baby born in the middle of a very cold Oklahoma winter. The local hospital was full of folks with winter ailments and they needed all of the space they could get. They had little or no hope for me so they sent me home with my grandmother to die. She held me for a prolonged period (days, weeks?) near an old wood burning stove and refused to let me die. My mother remained in the hospital for about a month due to the very bad birth. Maybe my Guardian Angel was an Okie...

The first event that I recall, I refer to as my Superman Incident and was when I tried to stop a speeding car with my head... I was about five years old. I had an extended stay in Jeff Davis Hospital in Houston. I believe I may have met my Guardian Angel there. If not, it was her first assistant. That's another story.

The next was my Electro-man stunt. I was 24, when I took a big shock while working on a SONAR transmitter. Very seldom did a destroyer have a doctor aboard but the Guardian Angel made arrangements for this trip. I had about a month left in the Navy and Sarah almost became a young widow. The doctor said that if I had been a little older the ticker would have stopped ticking.."



## The Many Lives of Joe Dorn (cont)

Nothing big happened after that until my 71st year and my Evil Knievel stunt really had the Guardian Angel on overtime.

If you travel Loop 121 between IH-14/US190 and FM-93, there is a low spot as you cross over our wet weather creek. This is the edge of the Balcones Fault and you will notice about a 40 or 50 foot rise immediately to the west. I had my dogs on their nightly run and I was setting on top of the hill on my 4-wheeler watching them. When I tried to start the 4-wheeler, it started rolling downhill



with NO BRAKES... The last thing I remember before I came to on the other side of the creek was a very dry and hard rock creek bottom. The 4-wheeler ended up in the creek bed and I ended up on the other side of the creek with eight broken ribs, a broken arm, a collapsed lung and a lot of scrapes and bruises. I did a quick triage and decided I was still alive and movable with no massive bleeding.

I had a real struggle getting out of the creek area, across two fence lines, and up to Hwy 121. I was covered with dirt and blood and had a hard time getting people's attention. Finally, a man stopped and offered help. I told him to call Sarah and have her pick me and the dogs up. We got loaded into the Suburban and she asked if I wanted to go to the hospital and I replied NO! Well as we started up our bumpy driveway, I changed my mind. We dumped the dogs and headed to Kings Daughters.

I just barely made it to the check-in desk when the old body said enough. I collapsed. Kings Daughters went on full alert and after about an hour or so, a few x-rays and an MRI scan decided they could not handle it and transferred me to S&W via a \$700 two-mile ambulance ride. Things started happening fast and furiously and I believe it was about 2:00 am when they moved me to an ICU unit. I gained a lot of respect for S&W that night.

I got to spend two wonderful weeks in the S&W Health Spa. One of the doctors told Sarah that I should have been dead dead dead... My Guardian Angel was not having any of that.

The Dirty Harry incident is the one you asked about. This happened in about my 73rd year. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon and the first NFL game was the event of the day for most normal males. I could care less if another football is ever kicked in Texas. Sarah, grandson Daniel and I decided to go to the backside and do a little gunnery practice.

## The Many Lives of Joe Dorn (finally)

All went well until I decided to shoot my .44 Magnum revolver that I had not put a bullet through in ten or more years. When I fired it, the recoil caused a jerk and a second shot with no effort on my part. I dropped the gun down to my side, finger still on the trigger and was turning around to tell Sarah about the hair trigger. In turning around, my trigger finger had a slight movement and that gun fired again... The bullet took about a pound of flesh off of my leg crossed over and nipped a little off of my big toe, ruining a good hiking shoe. The shoe and the bullet are still around here somewhere.

We loaded me into the 4-wheeler and then the car *du jour* and headed to S&W. Daniel called 911 and told them to be aware of a fast-moving vehicle headed to S&W. They advised us to wait for an ambulance but we chose to ignore their advice. Because of the NFL game there was no traffic on IH-35 and Sarah broke 100 mph for the first time in her life.

We arrived at the ER and it was almost empty, even the freeloaders were watching the game. Thanks again NFL. We ended up in one of the rooms and the cleaning of the wound started; there was very little bleeding. I asked if they knew Maggie McGraw and they advised me she was the doctor on duty.

Due to the low activity in the ER we had a lot of folks coming around to look at the wound; you could see the tendons and such and I would move it for them. Maggie and I rehashed the political situation, we are of like minds. The word got out on this un-busy Sunday so I had a steady stream of bored folks coming by for a look. I finally told them they could look for free but if they wanted to see the tendon move it cost a dime.

I lost a lot of flesh but no bone or had any other significant damage. The Guardian Angel had to be on her toes when that bullet went flying...This got me about five days in the Health Spa. A skin graft was going to be needed but the flesh had to rebuild first. We were assigned to a home nursing group that would come by two or three times a week to clean and dress the Grand Canyon of Dornville. It became infected big time and I got another few days in the spa.



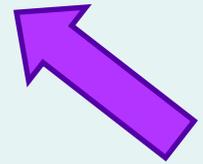
The event happened in early September and it wasn't until mid-December that the wound had healed enough for the graft. After the infection, S&W took over again and we made three trips a week to Temple for cleaning and dressing. I hated to see it end since we had become friendly with the staff.

As an aside, the McGraw's almost became in-laws. Their son and my granddaughter had a big thing going for a while but it didn't work out. That is why I think of her as Maggie instead of Dr. McGraw. I think the older folks were more disappointed than the kids. We still communicate via Facebook and such.

*Joe Dorn—as his alias “Bizzard Boy”.  
But then, that’s another story.*

# 2018 Texas Master Naturalist State Conference

October 26-28, 2018 Georgetown, Texas



The annual statewide Texas Master Naturalist Conference has never been so close and features over 150 learning sessions. There are also THIRTY off-site field trips — *including the Miller Springs Nature Center Geology Tour with Dr. Ray Kozuska (we call him Dr. Rock) on Friday, October 26th and the Burleson Prairie Walk on Monday October 29th led by our very own Lynn Fleming!* **We hope you will make arrangements to volunteer your help with our two CTMN-led state conference field trips, even if you don't attend the conference.**

[Annual Conference Agenda](#)

[Get Outside \(field trip\) Guide](#)

The Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Georgetown is hosted by our neighbors to the south, the Goodwater Master Naturalist Chapter. Plan to go down for this landmark annual event. It's amazing to be among 500+ nature lovers from all over Texas. There will be many Advanced Training classroom lectures led by recognized Texas experts and Field Trips to natural resource adventures right here in Central Texas. **We hope to see you there!**

The 20th Anniversary Gala will be held Thursday, October 25th as a fundraising & celebratory event with proceeds benefiting the Texas Master Naturalist Endowment Fund. The Endowment will support the TMN Program, its chapters and volunteers well into the future, for the benefit of natural resource education, conservation and stewardship. More information can be found online at: [www.https://masternaturalistendowment.org/](http://www.https://masternaturalistendowment.org/)

# President's Pen

## National Public Lands Day (NPLD)

- Rene Berkhoudt

The Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter recently had the opportunity to celebrate National Public Lands Day (NPLD) with a community picnic at the Overlook Pavilion on Belton Lakeview Park in September.

National public lands in Texas? You would be correct to ponder that anomaly as there is very little federal public recreation land that exists in the State of Texas; but it is nevertheless an important asset to celebrate. The impoundment of Belton Reservoir in 1954 and Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir in 1968 - for area flood control; led as a consequence to the creation of a series of small publicly accessible federally managed lakeside recreation areas in Bell County managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Among them Union Grove Park, Dana Peak Park, Live Oak Ridge Park, Temple Park, Chalk Ridge Falls Park, Belton Lakeview Park, and the Miller Springs Nature Center. The local Audubon Chapter is referred to as the Twin Lakes Audubon Society in homage to the existence of these two reservoirs.

National Public Lands Day was originally established in 1979 as the fourth Saturday in September and 2018 marked the 25th anniversary of this event. NPLD originally had seven federal agency partners including the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service.

When I was a federal land manager for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in New Mexico and in Utah, which both contain vast expanses of public federal recreation lands; we had very strong local community support for agency NPLD projects including area cleanup, trailhead construction, trails maintenance, and habitat restoration. I found it especially important to engage students and youth in NPLD activities to experience and support their federal public recreation lands.



However, it would be a misnomer to think that NPLD refers solely to federal public recreation lands, when in fact it refers to many types of communal public lands, enjoyed by a variety of constituents for outdoor recreation, education and public enjoyment.

These lands encompass national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, forests, grasslands, marine sanctuaries, lakes, and reservoirs, as well as state, county, and city parks that are meant to be enjoyed by us all.

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) coordinates NPLD activities nationwide. NPLD is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer event for public lands and through NEEF brings together hundreds of thousands of individual and organizational volunteers to ensure people of all ages and abilities connect with public lands.

These are the places Americans use for outdoor recreation, education, and just plain enjoyment – including Saturday afternoon picnics like ours.



## - Linda Fairlie

Every summer, my husband heads north out of the Texas heat, and we end up going some fabulous places. One of our favorites is Estes Park outside of Rocky Mountain National Park. The summer of 2017 I planned to learn to fly fish while we were in



Colorado. I had a brand new pole, net, flies, super cool hat with a feather in it, waders - the whole thing. I got pointers from "Fly Fishing for Dummies" and a few fly fishing shop owners as we went. I lost a lot of flies, had to learn new knots, had to practice my casts.... and it seemed like I would never catch a fish. Eventually I did catch a couple of small rainbow trout, and I was "hooked." There is just no feeling like the one you get when there is a fish on the end of your line.

Our last day of fishing was going to be in Rocky Mountain National Park. My husband does not fish. He calls it "torturing fish." He will eat them if I catch, clean and cook them though. The plan was to find a good spot on the St. Verain river for me to fish while he hiked the rest of the Ouzel Falls hike all the way to Ouzel Lake (10 miles round trip).



We hiked up past the first set of water falls - Copeland Falls. We reminisced about the time two years earlier that we had come upon a child who had fallen into the river nearby and almost drowned, and we helped. Our son, Martin had run the mile back to get the Ranger, while I kept the spirits up of the siblings of the child. John helped retrieve the child from the water. It was a very scary and very memorable experience. We settled on a place and I did not plan to get in the river. The water was fast that day and the Rangers warned us to stay out of the water. I knew to stay out of the water.



John started hiking, and I started fishing. There is something Zen about fishing a mountain stream with a fly rod, and even though I am no expert, I love the rhythm of casting a fly line. I tried a few different spots from the bank and was standing near the water, but not in it, on a rock that was dry. Suddenly, my feet slipped out from under me and I fell into the river! My new fishing pole preceded me down the fast, rushing water, my cool hat followed me, and my net was wrapped around my shoulder. I got mad.

Now, this river is snow fed and freezing cold temperature. Downstream is Copeland Falls and upstream are the Calypso Cascades. It was white water, with boulders everywhere. I stretched out so my feet were first and looked ahead. There was a log across the river about a foot above the water so I aimed for it and jammed my feet into it, stopping my progress down the river. My net was dragging me under the log, so I had to pull it off and let it go. I did not feel cold because I was angry! I knew not to fall in this river!

I was able to drag myself onto the log, and some hikers helped me out of the water. I gathered the few items I still had left and started hiking down to the truck. I met a Ranger along the way, which is when I felt the cold, and realized what had happened to me! I cried, and he helped me get to the station and get warm. I had to wait several hours for my husband to finish his hike and tell him what I had done.

Guess what I got for Christmas that year? A new pole, net, and flies! When the chance for me to take a fly fishing class with the Central Texas Master Naturalists came, I jumped at it! We made two lures, and I plan to be out on Nolan Creek first chance I get, trying out my new gear with my new skills!

*Photos provided by Linda*

*Editor's Note: "Fish Tales" will be an ongoing topic for our newsletter. If you have a Fish Tale of any kind, please share it with us!*

# 2018 August Awards

- Zoe Rascoe



Juan Anaya - Class of 2018  
Certificate of Course Completion



Ward Critz - Class of 2018  
Certificate of Course Completion



Sue Critz - Class of 2018  
Certificate of Course Completion



Linda Fairlie - Class of 2018  
Certificate of Course Completion

# 2018 August Awards



**John Atkins**  
2018 CTMN Recertification Pin



**Cindy Bolch**  
2018 CTMN Recertification Pin



**Dale Hughling**  
2018 CTMN Recertification Pin



**Lucy Coward**  
2018 CTMN Recertification Pin  
& 2,000 Volunteer Hour Pin

# 2018 August Awards



**Marilyn Whitworth**  
CTMN Chapter Milestone Pin



**Andreas Wooten**  
2018 CTMN Recertification Pin



**Sue Valdez**  
2018 TMN Conference Scholarship  
Award Winner for her help with  
Annual Training Course

**Lynn Williams**  
2018 TMN Conference  
Scholarship Award Winner in  
appreciation of her work on  
Discovery Trunks



# TPWD Fly Fisher Course September 15th

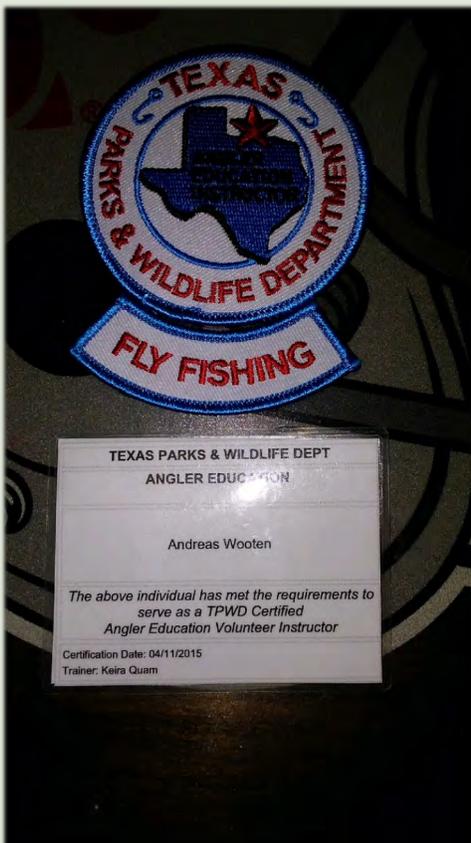
## *Andreas Wooten—TPWD Instructor*

### - Zoe Rascoe

Andreas Wooten is a fisherman. And thankfully for our Chapter, Andreas also likes to share his fishing love with others. He has been an instructor for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Angler Education program almost since he arrived—a program we have supported since our chapter's founding. Many of our members have taught or helped with classes for children and adults that covered the basics of actually fishing, but also instruction on Texas fish species, fishing regulations, fish habitat, bait and lures, knot tying, safety and protecting our water resources. Recently, Andreas added a new patch to his fishing shirt: Certified Fly Fishing Instructor. If you fish, you know that spin cast fishing and fly fishing are as similar as skiing and snowboarding. Well, and if you don't do both of those let me tell you, the only thing the same is the snow. As a fly fisherman, Andreas offered to be trained as an instructor and a beginning class quickly filled. Another round was offered in September and

it was easy to see that Andreas' passion for the sport was contagious. In addition to public attendees, congratulations to the following CTMN attendees for completing the course: Dale Hughling, John Atkins, Tina Atkins, Mary Ann Everett, Linda Fairlie, Ward Critz, Sue Critz, Lyna Pitts and Juan Anaya.

*Photos: Andreas' Fly Fishing Instructor patch. Andreas showing fly fishing line construction.*

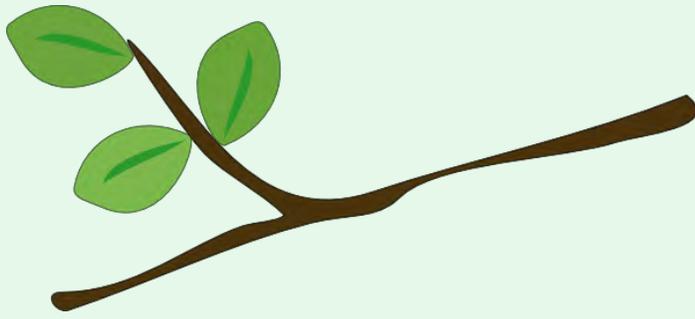


# TPWD Fly Fisher Course September 15th

Photos (top left to right): Fish ID cards provided as a resource; Dale Hughling and Sue Critz practice casting (power lines are actually further away than they look); Tina and John Atkins cast towards invisible fish; Adam Comer, TPWD Angler Ed Specialist, attends the conference—he came in his cool pickup. I don't think Andreas gets one of those.

Photos by Zoe Rascoe





# Out on a Limb

- Mary Ann Everett

**Tree Description:** Grows to 75' with straight trunk 2-3' in diameter. Has a narrow, oblong crown.

**Blooms:** July-October with a hairy, short-stalked clusters.

**Fruit:** Seeds are centered in a “wing” and are hairy all over. Seeds occur in the fall which distinguishes this species from other similar natives.

**Location:** common in Central Texas, can be near streams or dry limestone hills. Also used in landscapes.

**Leaves:** small, double serrate edges, feels like sandpaper. The tree is deciduous and one of few trees here that can have fall color.

**Food Source:** Larval plant for Question Mark and Mourning Cloak butterflies.

**Interesting Facts:** As a hardy tree, it withstands drought and unfertile soils. Of little commercial use, but a great shade tree and a *Firewise* choice.



This will be a new column in the newsletter by Mary Ann— test your knowledge of area trees. Some information is from Texas A&M Forest Service, also a great resource.



[Click here for the name of the tree!](#)

# CTMN Chapter Picnic

Belton Lakeview Park—Overlook Pavilion

*National Public Lands Day was celebrated by CTMN Chapter members with great food, activities and company at a local public park. Thanks go to those who helped host the event and those who came as guests.*

*Thank you to Daisy Klassy for capturing the fun in photos. Wish it was scratch and sniff! (for the food, I mean)*



*National Public Lands Day fellowship and families*



*National Public Lands Day fabulous food and fun*



## *National Public Lands Day Picnic*

How many different versions of our “Nature Rocks” T-shirts can you find among the photos? Those were purchased for our volunteers with the help of a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grant our chapter received.



# South Padre Island Adventures

## - Andreas Wooten

South Padre Island Texas is known as the home of the spring break party scene for most every college in the state. If you want to avoid the two hour waits to get over the causeway and five MPH speeds in bumper to bumper traffic, never go to South Padre in the summer (between May 30 and Labor Day) or during spring break.



However, it also has a few very interesting places that are quite appealing if you go in the off season and not during spring break. I went down to South Padre with my family a few weeks ago (right after Labor Day) and we had a blast. Primarily we went for the fishing, which we all did a great



*Now that's a crowded beach! Photo by San Antonio Express—News*

deal of. Red Snapper season was over so we bay fished from shore, from a charter boat, wading out and trying our hand at fly fishing in the bay (that's hard work – can you guess why?)



In the bay we found that the best thing to do is go at night, get the back of the boat and bring your own rod/reel if you have it. We went out once during the day and only got four fish. But then we went out the next three nights and caught around 15 or 20 fish each night. The variety is pretty good as well. We brought in three different kinds of catfish, Whiting, Sand Trout, Speckled Trout, Sting Ray, Eels and I even pulled up a Bonnet Head Shark (one of the smallest known sharks at about three feet fully grown). All in all, very cool!

*Continued....*

## South Padre Island Adventures (cont)

Another place we visited was the **South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center**. WOW, what an awesome place. Another well-done venue and facility.

Here is a nice summary from their website:

*“Welcome to South Padre Island, and the South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center. We are a non-profit organization created by the Town of South Padre Island’s Economic Development Corporation in response to the researched desires of our residents and visitors. As one of the nine World Birding Center sites located within the lower Rio Grande Valley, our primary goal is to provide excellent, one-of-a-kind birding opportunities coupled with interpretive tours of our site and educational opportunities to learn about birds and birding here on South Padre Island. But we don’t just talk about the birds on the Island; we also have fabulous fish, dolphin, plants and other animals to talk about.”*



*This is not a scare tactic—they are serious!* With a Senior or Military discount it is only \$5 to get in. We had planned to spend about 30 or 40 minutes there. But three hours later we finally had to leave because they were closing. They have a four-story tower that has an elevator if you are not a stairs person, but no matter what, GO TO THE TOP!! What a view!



Remember to stay on the boardwalks - they do have some alligators. But other than that it is really safe! There is a water station out on one of the walkways but I recommend bringing your own water, binoculars and a camera. I saw at least nine kinds of birds, three or four kinds of fish and of course the alligators (two for sure).

Inside the building they have a great gift-shop where I purchased a nice walking stick medallion for only a few bucks and there is lots of space, air conditioning and restrooms. Read more about the Center and their turtle rescue efforts at <https://www.spibirding.com/>

Photos courtesy of Andreas Wooten

# South Padre Island Adventures

## - Andreas Wooten

Between fishing trips, my lovely bride and I ventured out to the newly refurbished and updated Sea Turtle Rescue Center (<http://www.seaturtleinc.org/>). It is much better than it used to be, if you had ever been to it a few years ago. It is an excellent educational facility and well done. The permanent residents (sea turtles, not people) are an exceptional bunch and each has a unique story. In my opinion the story of the center's inception and growth is far more interesting and a testament to dedication to a cause.



*Verde #1 checks out the guests*

You can go to the web site above to read the full story, but here is an excerpt from the home page: "At Sea Turtle Inc., our mission is to rescue and rehabilitate injured sea turtles for release back into the wild, educate the public, and assist with conservation efforts for all marine turtle species." Sea Turtle, Inc. was founded in 1977 by Ila Fox Loetscher, better known as "The Turtle Lady of South Padre Island." In 1999, Sea Turtle, Inc. moved

from Ila's backyard into its current location at 6617 Padre Blvd. Originally this organization was formed to aid in the protection and recovery of the endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle. Their mission has since expanded into three parts: Education, Rehabilitation, and Conservation. Sounds really familiar for a mission statement does it not?!

To the right is a photo of a story about one of the turtles. You'll have to zoom to read it here but you can see it on the website. This is just to show what you will get when you go there. They also have a military and Senior discount that makes the entry about \$5 per person. They have a great indoor facility with aquariums and displays as well as an amphitheater if you happen to get there at a time when they are having a program.



*Verde #1's story*

*Photos by Andreas Wooten*

# What's in YOUR backyard?



Juan Anaya has some beautiful Turk's Cap in his backyard. And you may already know that hummingbirds love the deep-throated blooms that last for months here in Central Texas. If you didn't notice the hummingbird in the photo above, it's probably because of that huge grasshopper stealing the show. It may be a face-off between the two on which creature will claim that gorgeous plant, but Juan tips the scales with a little help from his grasshopper eradicator at 30 paces. I think this might qualify for organic pest removal, but I'm not sure. Either way, the hummingbirds win in Juan's yard. ZR

*Editor's Note: This will be an ongoing topic for our newsletter. If you have a backyard story, please share it with us!*



Photos by Juan Anaya

# Master Naturalists Out and About



*Courtesy Photo*

John Atkins presented Texas Invasives to six classes of environmental systems students at Belton High School in September. This was a continuation of our engagement with youth partners that we formed under our TPWD CO-OP grant. John Atkins' outstanding knowledge of environmental education and ecosystems management continues to be a great asset to our Chapter. Thanks to Ms. Danielle Jones, Belton H.S. Science Teacher, for the opportunity to continue our collaboration with area schools.

Mary Ann Everett and Rene Berkhoudt attended the UMHB Service Fair on September 19th on behalf of the Belton Parks and Recreation Dept. to encourage university students to volunteer in the local community. Volunteer opportunities include the Nolan Creek Hike & Bike Trail Cleanup, and volunteer service at the Miller Springs Nature Center and the Bell County Museum.



*Photo by Rene Berkhoudt*

# Master Naturalists Out and About



Lynn Williams models her amazing Monarch Butterfly and caterpillar children's costumes with the help of Lucy Coward. As a seamstress extraordinaire, Lynn has developed a number of animal costumes that are carefully designed and crafted to be as anatomically correct as possible with a sewing machine so that the costumes are not only fun, but educational. Other costumes include a frog, lady bug and of course our beloved Screech Owl (below).

Rene Berkhoudt provides a summary wrap-up of the 2016-2018 Texas Parks & Wildlife CO-OP grant to attendees at our August Chapter Meeting. (right)



CTMN Member Lucy Coward used photos to walk through an amazing season of monarchs in her yard (left.)

*Photos by Zoe Rascoe*

# Master Naturalists Out and About



Photo from website by jewelsavenue

The Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter participated in the Second Annual Salado Sirena Fest on Saturday, October 6th, interacting with hundreds of children. Mary Ann Everett was our team leader for the event and was assisted by Kathy Cantu, Linda Fairlie, Mollie Huber, Lyna Pitts and Marilyn Whitworth.

The Sirena Fest and Mermaid Parade highlights a local legend about a Tonkawa Indian maiden tricked by a magical catfish and turned into a mermaid. The festival is directed entirely to children and families to encourage children to think outside of the box, dream wild imaginative dreams and fulfill them. Sounds good to us!

A vertical poster for the Sirena Festival &amp; Mermaid Parade. At the top, it says "YOU'RE INVITED" in white on a blue background. Below that is a circular graphic with a mermaid and the text "SATURDAY OCT 06TH 11 AM KICKOFF". The main title "Sirena Festival &amp; Mermaid Parade" is in a large, stylized font, with "SALADO, TEXAS" underneath. A note says "all proceeds go towards building an all abilities park in Salado". The Variety logo is present. Below that, it says "It's that time of year, folks!". A paragraph of text describes the event: "Salado's Sirena Fest &amp; Mermaid Parade is right around the corner! If you &amp; your crew plan to join the Mermaid Parade magic, support as a sponsor, and/or become a part of the festival vendor tribe, NOW is the time sign up! After the magical Merparade there will be various food trucks, hands on activities, merchandise as well as live music." Another paragraph says "STAY TUNED for updates and the 2018 full throttle Sirena Fest line-up! From all day array of bands to all things mermagical and food trucks galore, this is a Texas Family event unlike any other and all for an amazing cause. All proceeds go to benefit the all-abilities playground in Salado!". At the bottom, it lists "Sirena Fest 2018 Board" and the website "WWW.SIRENAFEST.COM". Social media handles for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are also listed.

# On the Horizon

Check Out the CTMN Weekly e-Mail for a Full Listing of Upcoming Events!

*Photo by Zoe Rascoe—Temple Tractor Show Grounds*

## OCTOBER

Thu 25<sup>th</sup> (V) Garden Workday at Bell County Museum. 8am Lynn: [lynnfleming99@gmail.com](mailto:lynnfleming99@gmail.com)

Fri 26<sup>th</sup> (V) Pond Project at US Army Corps of Engineers, Belton Dam Office. 9am [awwooten101@gmail.com](mailto:awwooten101@gmail.com)

Fri– Sun 26<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> (Fun & AT) **2018 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting** Georgetown

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> (V) Mother Neff State Park Fall Festival 10am Melissa: [melissa.chadwick@tpwd.gov](mailto:melissa.chadwick@tpwd.gov) or call 254-853-2389 ext 224

## NOVEMBER

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> (V) First Monday Gardening at Salado Museum. 7:30am - 9:30am

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Enter your volunteer & advanced training hours into VMS

Tue 13<sup>th</sup> CTMN Board of Director's Meeting, Belton Church of Christ. 4pm-6pm.

Tue 13<sup>th</sup> CTMN Chapter Meeting. Belton Church of Christ, 6pm-8pm. [rene.berkhoudt@gmail.com](mailto:rene.berkhoudt@gmail.com)

Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> (V) Garden Work Day at Bell County Museum. 8am. Lynn: [lynnfleming99@gmail.com](mailto:lynnfleming99@gmail.com)

Thu 29<sup>th</sup> (V) Trail Clean-up at Nolan Creek Hike & Bike Trail. 9am-12pm. [everett.maryann4@gmail.com](mailto:everett.maryann4@gmail.com)

Fri 30<sup>th</sup> (V) Pond Project - US Army Corps of Engineers, Belton Dam Office. 9am. Contact Andreas at: [awwooten101@gmail.com](mailto:awwooten101@gmail.com)

(V) Approved for Volunteer Hours

(AT) Approved for Advanced Training

### CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

<https://www.facebook.com/Central-Texas-Chapter-Texas-Master-Naturalists-116648718373317/timeline/>



*Common Box Turtle (Terrapene carolina)  
- Photo by Rene Berkhoudt*

## 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

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**Interim Editor:** Zoe Rascoe

**Contributing Writers:** Rene Berkhoudt, Joe Dorn, Linda Fairlie, Mary Ann Everett, Zoe Rascoe, Andreas Wooten

**Contributed Photos:** Juan Anaya, Rene Berkhoudt, Joe Dorn, Linda Fairlie, Daisy Klassy, Zoe Rascoe, Andreas Wooten

**We will be starting recurring columns on member visits to National Parks and Texas State Parks, along with "Fish Tales" (of any kind!) If you have a story to share, just send me your idea.**

Zoe Rascoe at [trascoe@hotmail.com](mailto:trascoe@hotmail.com)

### Chapter Advisors

Whitney Grantham,  
County Extension Agent, Natural Resources  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Derrick Wolter,  
Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife



### The Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter

Chapter meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December at 6 p.m. at the Belton Church of Christ at 3003 N. Main. Location exceptions are in December and June.

**\*PACE** meetings are at the Church location at 6 p.m. the 2nd Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. **THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME AT ALL OF OUR MEETINGS.**

**\*Programs    Activities    Committees    Everything else**

The Board of Directors meets the 2nd Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November at 4 p.m. in the Board Room at the AgriLife Extension Center at 1605 North Main in Belton.