



El Camino Real Texas Master Naturalist™ Chapter

Field Trip #3: River Systems Institute, San Marcos

Aquarena Conference and Visitors Center, Aquarena Springs Drive, Texas State University, San Marcos TX (800) 999-9767

Tuesday, March 4, 2008



Master Naturalist Host Advisors: Mike Mitchell & Jon Gersbach

Facility Contacts: Dr. Andrew Samson, Executive Director, River Systems Institute
Doyle Mosier, Director, River Studies Program, Texas Parks & Wildlife
Sonja Mlenar, Coordinator of Instructional Programs, Aquarena Center
Mr. Jason Pinchback, Texas Stream Team, Sr. Monitoring Coordinator
Ethan Chappell, Lake Manager

Agenda: Be greeted by Dr. Samson. Mosier discusses waters and fish of Texas, then fish habitats in general. Pinchback discusses threats to Texas water and what might be done (pollution, water monitoring, habitat threats, etc.). Chappell offers a brief overview of Lake Research/University Projects (if available). Then aquarium and glass-bottom boat tour.

Master Naturalist students are again graciously being offered a 24-passenger bus from ALCOA Rockdale Operations. That bus will depart from the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce (1203 W. Cameron Avenue in Rockdale) promptly at 7:15 am. I know this is early! If you ride the ALCOA bus, please park wisely on the caliche parking area in the back of the building, as the Chamber has very few parking spaces up front. A few students may also drive on their own if so desired. A signup sheet is being offered. We would like a full bus; it is part of our way to show ALCOA thanks. Parts of this tour will be aboard a boat. No snacks will be provided by the class. Students should expect to arrive back at Rockdale by 2 pm, unless we decide as a group to have lunch and it is acceptable to our bus driver.

The class is paying your group admission for this event. The treasurer will handle one lump sum payment. Seniors are considered over 55 years of age; let us know.

Location:

94 miles / 1 hr 39 minutes southwest of Rockdale

CAUTION: IH 35 traffic is very heavy in Austin during this time of day. Route accordingly.

Directions from Rockdale:

1. Follow I-35 South to San Marcos, take exit #206 . Stay on the access road.
2. Merge right onto Aquarena Springs Drive/Loop 82. You will pass two traffic lights and cross over a railroad track. Bobcat Stadium will be on your left.
3. Immediately after the railroad tracks take a right (Laurel Ridge). Continue through the golf course to the Aquarena Center entrance on your left.
4. Meet at the Gift Shop counter

The Texas Master Naturalist program activities are coordinated by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Texas Master Naturalist programs serve all people regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.