Texas Master Naturalist

El Camino Real Chapter

*Floridus Milamexa*

September 23, 2014

Members: Linda Jo Conn, John Pruett, Katherine Bedrich, Rusty Thomas

Headed north on CR 429, at 8:30am, starting at Sheckel’s Bridge.

On the southeast side of the bridge, part of the habitat had been cleared. Eve’s necklace, Turk’s cap and other noted plants were gone. Shaking our heads, we returned to our objective – observation and documentation.

A colony of Eve’s necklace are standing on the northwest side of the bridge. A few “necklace” seed pods were noted. The balloon vine has fruit (balloons). A large bur oak was noted at the bridge (with nuts). Carolina snailseeds were brightly dotting the trees. Snow-on-the-prairie, pigeon berry and frostweed were listed.

Checking out the river, we noted a water moccasin on the south side. It seemed smaller than the one we saw in August. It meandered in the water swimming bank to bank, checking out the grounds.

Several birds and butterflies were out, including a Goatweed leafwing.

A fire ant mound was observed with several roly polys moving across the top. The fire ants did not seem to be disturbed about this. Could the roly polys be so light on their feet as not to disturb the fire ants? Could they be immune to fire ant stings; or do the fire ants stay away from them for some reason?

Next field trip: Wednesday, October 15th, 9:00am. Meet on CR 429 a little north of the bridge to continue on “The Trail”.