

Good Water RIPPLES

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Volume 6 - Number 4 August/September 2017



UPCOMING EVENTS

08/10	NPSOT
08/24	GWMN
08/28	Austin Butterfly Forum
09/07	NPSOT
09/25	Austin Butterfly Forum
09/28	GWMN
10/12	NPSOT
10/23	Austin Butterfly Forum
10/26	GWMN
GWMN Good Water Master Naturalist	
NPSOT Native Plant Society of Texas	

Check the website for additional events including volunteer and training opportunities. The many events are way too numerous to even think about posting all here!

IN THIS EDITION

Fall Training Cass	1-2
Junior Master Naturalist 2017-2018	3
Stream Team and Inspired Poetry	4
Berry Springs: Farewell Amigo	5
Annual Meeting in October	6
Christi Gardner 1000 Hours	6

Fall Training Class: Become A Master Naturalists

Registration is open for the Good Water Chapter's Fall Training Class.

"Classes are taught by world renowned academics and subject matter experts. Our fellow students' diverse vocational and educational backgrounds added to the learning experience." – former student Bruce Polikoff

Fall 2017 Good Water Master Naturalist Training Class
<http://tinyurl.com/GWMNTraining>
 Sept 5 – Dec 12, 2017
 40 Hours Classroom Training
 40 Hours Community Service
 8 Hours Advanced Training
 Cost: \$150 (includes manual)

Texas Master Naturalists are people who still like to play in the dirt and are willing to get their feet wet and their hands dirty. To become a Master Naturalist, one takes a training class of over 40 hours of expert training about almost every aspect of the natural world – soils, backyard habitats, prairies, rangeland management, forest ecology, birds, mammals, fish, insects, botany, climate, geology and archaeology. (continued on page 2)



Fall Training Class Details: Tuesdays 6:00-9:30pm and Saturday Field Trips



The class will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-9:30 p.m with some additional classes and field trips on Saturdays. The first class is September 5. The last class is December 12. Cost is \$150 and includes the new, comprehensive Texas Master Naturalist Program manual as well as a one year membership to the Good Water Chapter. For couples who plan to share the manual, there is a discount for the second student. Visit our website for our schedule:

<https://txmn.org/goodwater/files/2017/07/2017-Fall-Training-Class-Tentative-Schedule.pdf>

“I was so impressed by our instructors, so well qualified, most were Doctoral level and experts in their field, involved in research and many authors of books and research articles as well” Betty Saenz

“We are like kids again (catching frogs, bringing home pockets full of acorns and seeds, getting muddy and tired playing in the out-of-doors). I call Master Naturalists like scouting on steroids. We loved getting to know our classmates, our trainers, and our committee members as we learned about volunteer activities and experienced the wild in a deeper way.” Amy Flinn

“Our fellow master naturalists are generous of spirit – always a source of information, advice, and encouragement.” Mike Finn

“I enjoyed the Master Naturalist training classes very much because of the level of the instructors, because of the range of the classes and because of the introduction of further training and volunteer opportunities that became available.” Rana Sanders

“The Master Naturalist class was certainly an alarming eye opener in regard to being a good land steward! For me some memorable moments were being introduced to Aldo Leopold by Wayne Rhoden, the grave concern of water shortage in our near future from Gene Chisolm, and the final sermon from Dr. Barron Rector on the failures of society in regard to the land which brought back childhood church memories of feeling like the preacher was singling me out for my role in the catastrophe, my sins against the land.” Mike Farley

“Good Water Chapter has an exceptional training course for those interested in our local wildlife and habitats. If one has a desire to learn about nature and lend a hand in its preservation, this is an excellent path to take. Knowledgeable guest lecturers and fun field trips add to a rewarding classroom experience. The spring class was the most enjoyable few months I’ve had since relocating to Texas.” Cindy Graham



To complete the certification process, each volunteer completes 40 hours of service and an additional 8 hours of training. To maintain their certification each year, volunteers are encouraged to take their knowledge and volunteer for 40 hours and take 8 hours of additional training.

<https://txmn.org/goodwater/Training-class-online-application/>



Water Wonders

Thursday, September 21 -

Why is Water Important to us? Characteristics of Water

Thursday, October 5 - Amphibians

Saturday, October 14 - Field Trip Amphibians

Thursday, November 1 - Water Quality

Saturday, November 11 - Field Trip:

Measuring Water Quality: Water Analysis, Aquatic Invertebrates

Thursday, December 4 - Water Cycle

Thursday, January 11 - Waterfowl & Shorebirds

Saturday, January 27 - Field Trip: Hornsby Bend

Thursday, February 1 - Ground Water, Edwards Aquifer & Water Pollution

Thursday, February 15 - Wastewater Treatment

Thursday, March 1 - Water Management

Saturday, March 24 - Service Project

Thursday, March 29- Wetlands

Thursday, April 2 - Estuaries

Thursday, April 16 - Texas Water Mammals

Thursday, May 7 - Fish

Saturday, May 23 - Graduation Field Trip Fishing

Grades: 3rd - 5th

Cost: \$25 for JMN, + \$20 to join 4H Total: \$45.00

Thursday classes are from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Most classes will meet at the AgriLife Extension Meeting Room, 3151 SE Inner Loop, Georgetown.

September 21 class will last until 8:00 for orientation. October 21 Field Trip will be in the evening. All other field trips will be Saturday mornings.

Registration will open August 1st.

To receive a reminder email about registration:

<https://tinyurl.com/JMN-Reminder>

Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/JMN-Registration>



AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System



Stream Team by Larry Swift

The Good Water Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program participates in the statewide citizen science water monitoring project, the Texas Stream Team. Our next training will be September 9, 2017.

Texas Stream Team is a statewide network of citizen scientists and supportive partners working together to gather information about water quality in our streams. Texas Stream Team is administered through a cooperative partnership between The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Texas Stream Team trains Texans on how to collect water quality data, such as pH, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity in nearby rivers and lakes.

Forty four members of the Good Water Chapter have taken the training and been certified as Texas Water Quality Monitors. Sixteen have taken additional advanced training and are certified to test for nitrogen, phosphates and E. coli bacteria. We currently monitor fifteen streams in Williamson County as well as one site each in Bull and Travis Counties. In Williamson County, Good Water members are monitoring twelve sites on the San Gabriel River and Brushy Creek water sheds.

Each month our members monitor and report pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, dissolved solids, and other indicators of water quality at their designated sites. That data is submitted to The Meadows Center to support academic research, inform conservation policy, and serve as a de facto early warning system for water quality events across Texas.

Members who have not yet had the training are welcome to participate in the monitoring. Everyone interested in monitoring, whether certified or not, can go to Good Water Stream Monitoring Signup Genius page to and sign up.

Visit our website for more information about the Good Water Texas Stream Monitoring Project Team. Visit <http://www.meadowscenter.txstate.edu/Service/TexasStreamTeam.html> for Texas Stream Team.

Limerick by Lee

*Here we are, the original three
Gail and Rana and then there is Lee.
She scribbles, the waters they test,
“Aw, where are we?”, no time for a rest.
They part the river, no kite in the tree.*



Haiku by Gail

*Rana gets the water
Gail counts eight drops
Lee records the data
Dream Team*

Poem by Gail McAdoo

The rhythm of testing starts at home, we're convinced
Beaker and conductivity calculator and thermometer are rinsed.
 At water's edge, the bucket's half-full
 At table, each and every tool
Bottles and vials and tubes - are rinsed twice
In sample or distilled water? Oh, that's nice.
Add 10 drops and compare the hue
PH averages 7.2
Check back at our list. Dissolved Oxygen's next,
We must carefully follow a routinized text.
Add 8 drops to each of two bottles of water.
 Manganese sulfate
Another eight drops! Doin' what we oughter.
 Alkaline Potassium
Count to twenty-five with each bottle invert
Then settle the liquid to white shoulders, you flirt.
Invert once again, but only times ten
White shoulders return. If we watch, we know when.
Another 8 drops, of sulphuric acid this time
We must wait for three minutes. Think up a rhyme.
From bottles to test tubes with hole in the top
We titrate and swirl and at color pale yellow we drop
Another eight, (will that number not stop?)
Of starch indicator, titrate - swirl til we pop
That purple color away to clear white.
Reading the titrate's number can be a fright.
If .5 is the most distance between the two readings
There's reason to offer thanksgiving greetings.

We've lined up the meniscus to just the right place
And checked all the dates on the reagents label face.
We now know the PH and dissolved oxygen are healthy
For the vegetation and all of its fish. That's wealthy.
If we weren't citizen scientist off on a spree
We'd verify health by the fishing osprey.
Democracy reigns to keep 3 testers in order
“Within normal limits” is our goal for recorder.
There's turbidity and orthophosphates, too
Don't forget nitrate nitrogen with little tablets 1 & 2.
We have insects and snakes, and birds at our site.
Great egrets, Big Blues, and even a kite.
Rainfall brings sediment, and debris after storm.
No odor, no color, no scum is the norm.
San Gabriel flows its way through the park
The temperature decreases when it gets dark.
The clouds come and go as the trees leaf the season
The breezes are kind, and the rocks have their reason
But our little trio has told all jokes that they know.
None fell in the river, no gripe came to blow.
To eliminate reagents, a new probe did arrive.
Reagents expire and take time to derive.
We know the new method will work out just fine
Yet for us, though we try, we can't find the line.
Old eyes do not readily see numbers on the probe.
It's quicker and easier for a younger frontal lobe.
So the younger corp will assume and to San Marcos deliver
Clear numbers to monitor our San Gabriel River.

*Our dream team says a fond farewell
And wish all the stream monitors very well.*

Berry Springs: Farewell to Amigo the Donkey by Susan Blackledge

Since 2006, the barn area at Berry Springs Park and Preserve has been home to donkeys. Having these farm animals on site gives young and old gives young and old the opportunities to enjoy being up close to them and to learn about them. Our first park mascot/donkey “J.J.”, came to the park from Barry Chamberlin, a member of the family who sold Berry Springs to the County in 2001. Under the custodianship of then WILCO Parks and Recreation Director Jim Rodgers, J.J. was joined briefly by “Jenny” who was about to give birth, and the park became home to her son “Poco”. Poco was a brat and mean to JJ, but when Mama left, JJ let him know who was at the park first. Not long afterwards, the two were like peas and carrots at each other side 24/7. At the time, Berry Springs had the reputation of being the “Best Kept Secret” of Georgetown and soon was also known as “The Donkey Park”.



Amigo, whose life and contributions to the park we celebrate, moved to the park in 2012 after J.J. died suddenly of unknown “natural” causes. Poco, was devastated and we knew we had to get him a buddy quick. We inquired with Stanley, a business partner of Barry who brought Poco to the park, if he had any more donkeys and he said, “Yes, come pick one out.” he said. Meeting Amigo on Stanley’s ranch near Walberg, the small male donkey was very shy and bullied by the jenny donkeys and horses. I had to teach him to be approachable to people and to learn what a carrot and a range cube was. I stood in a hay bale metal circle for protection and hand fed them one at a time. The male donkey was slow to catch on and usually was nudged out of the way by the others. He had to get his shots and had to be castrated too. It was a tough for the little guy at first but he finally made the move to the park. Poco was anxiously waiting for him and it didn’t take long for them to become running buddies. When he was dropped off, Stanley, looked at the two of them and said, “ I think they are stepbrother’s”. Poco, taught him how to greet folks and receive treats and pats on the head.



The next thing to do was to name the little, red furry donkey. The Austin American Statesman paper came out and did a story on him that read “Donkey finds a home, needs a name” and put my email address in the paper to write in. I received hundreds of entries. A Master Gardener “Adrian Grimmet” won the contest and named him “Amigo” which means “friend”.

Amigo was also known as the “Smart Ass”. Out of all the donkeys we had he was the only one who knew how to get out of the compound and we couldn’t figure out how he was doing it. The sheriff’s office had my number on speed dial. “Your donkey is out again”. Until one day, in front of us, he put one hoof down on the bottom fence line and then used his head to raise the middle slick wire upward and walked out! We quickly built “the Donkey Knox fence” and that stopped that.

Thank to all the volunteers who have worked to rebuild the barn and give our donkeys a good home. Amigo had a very good life and made a lot of friends. Happy Trails to you good buddy, you will be missed. For now, stop by and give Lil Bob some extra attention. He misses Amigo and needs our TLC.



Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi on October 20-22

Each year Master Naturalists from across the state of Texas converge to share ideas, learn new things about nature, and gain energy from like-minded people at the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting. There are lectures that provide Advanced Training, interesting field trips, and sessions where members from different chapters share things that their chapter is doing. Register in August and be sure to get a hotel room early.

This year's event will be in beautiful Corpus Christi where there will be some great opportunities for field trips and birding as well as other Advanced Training opportunities. Join these and other attending

Good Water Chapter usually has a number of people attending. Here are some of their comments about their experiences at the annual meeting and why they enjoy going.

Wayne Rhoden enjoys meeting other master naturalists from other chapters, some he has known for many years. The best thing he learned last year was wildlife watching using automated cameras. He recommends attending to meet with other chapter members and see what they are doing for AT and VT hours and projects.

Nancy Phillips enjoys attending the annual meeting because there are so many opportunities to learn. She has attended sessions on leading night hikes, spiders, bats, native plants, bird songs, working with children and young adults. She has enjoyed the great field trips especially Bracken Cave at one of the meetings. She appreciates seeing different parts of our state- Mo Ranch, Allen, Conroe, New Braunfels, and Horseshoe Bay. She recommends taking at least one session off to explore the area. Because she enjoys birding, the Pileated Woodpecker at the meeting in Conroe was a special treat.

Geraldne Johnson was really enthused about the Friday program about the Texas Waters course.

Jessica Woods thought it was very exciting to be around so many like-minded people from all walks of life though. It was also just energizing and a "homey" feeling to be around so many people who get this too and understand about how great Texas and the world is and want to learn more about and help protect it!

David Armstrong's favorite things were meeting MNs from around the state, fellowship with the Good Water contingent, and attending the rousing highly charged awards sessions. He recommends going to one, enjoying the rush and getting into the swing of the annual meeting.

Christi Gardner's 1000 Hours of Service: Bats, Learning, and Amazing Places

Growing up in Arlington, TX my family used to visit my Great Uncle Jim on Sundays at his farm in town. His farm stretched down to the Trinity River with beautiful pecan orchards, ponds and of course the river to explore. That got me hooked on nature.

Years later as a 1st grade teacher, I had to develop a new lesson for Halloween that didn't involve witches or carved pumpkins for students whose religious beliefs forbade these images. Good thing, because that is how I came across bats. For over 30 years I learned about bats at the Houston Zoo and Bat Conservation International. I even turned my 3rd grade room into a bat cave one year when our grade was studying habitats.

After 36 years of teaching in Houston public schools I retired to take care of my Dad in Georgetown. I couldn't stop learning or teaching so I became a Master Gardener and then a Master Naturalist. I also began my own private tutoring business so that I could put down my own roots.

I reached 1000 hours because of my love of bats, educating children and adults and because I love to learn about new things--Eastern bluebirds, amphibians and plants.



For information about the Good Water Chapter
<http://txmn.org/goodwater> or goodwatermn2@gmail.com