



# Highland Lakes Steward

November 2011

Volume 2, Issue 11

## MISSION

The Texas Master Naturalist program is a natural resource-based volunteer training and development program sponsored statewide by Texas AgriLife Extension and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The mission of the program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the state of Texas

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## FROM THE NATIVE VIEW

By Sammye Childers

### *Argarita Berberis trifoliolata* or *Mahonia trifoliolata* (*morici.*) Fedde

Argarita is a native to the Edwards Plateau, grows abundantly in the Hill Country and is well recognized by most Texans. But, one seldom sees this very attractive shrub in gardens. In fact, one seldom sees it mentioned in most gardening books. Mother Nature has blessed us with many argaritas on our property. One stand alone specimen is about five feet tall, with as wide a spread. They are beautiful year round and form the backdrops for many of our beds. Argaritas also serve as nurse plants for more delicate varieties because animals do not browse it. Native Americans used virtually every part of the plant for food, medicine or dye. Today we find argarita jellies readily available and, if we are very lucky, an argarita margarita.

Argarita is an arching, rounded shrub with beautiful gray-green to blue-grey, holly-like foliage with needle-sharp tips, making it an excellent plant to contrast both color and texture. It is low maintenance and in fact should be left without pruning. Argaritas are drought tolerant, have a very high heat tolerance, evergreen and hardy to 15 degrees F. It will do well in full sun to part shade, has a very low water usage, will adjust to almost any well-drained soil, and is very disease resistant. Natural germination of argarita is low but it may spread by suckering that is easy to control if you do not want a thicket to form. It is difficult, but



possible, to grow from cuttings. It is also needs special care to transplant. Single specimen shrubs may fruit poorly so grow more than one shrub together for best fruit production. It can be used as a specimen or, because of prickly leaves, as a security hedge. You might not want to locate it in a high traffic area because of the prickly nature of this beautiful plant.

Argarita blooms very early in spring, as early as late February, making it a very important nectar source. The fragrant yellow flowers are followed by red berries in summer. The berries are an important food source for birds and wildlife. Quail, songbirds and small mammals use the plant for cover. The plants are highly deer resistant.

It is considered a good honey source. The delicious berries are most often used to make jellies but are also used in pies, cobblers and wines. Roots will furnish a yellow dye. You might not want to eat too many fresh berries at one time as they might cause digestive upset.

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**NOVEMBER MEETING** By Fred Franki

At the chapter meeting on November 9, HLMN members, Harris Greenwood and Romelia Favrot gave a one hour presentation on their land management experiences at the couple's Double H Ranch. They had dreamed for years of owning a ranch in the Hill Country and especially wanted land with water on it, cool, clear water. The place they purchased in the late 90's was advertised as having "water, water, water". The place did have spring-fed ponds, but they were hopelessly silted. There were other problems too, dilapidated buildings, overgrowth of McCartney roses, cactus, and ashe juniper, terrible roads, too many deer and feral hogs, and a lot of junk such as old glass, wire, drums and rotting deer blinds.



But Harris and Romelia saw the potential and were undaunted. In restoring the property, Harris said they went by three principles, do no harm, do what you can afford, and do what is aesthetically pleasing. Harris described the methods for eradicating and/or controlling vegetation and wildlife. Romelia told us how they recycled many objects found on the ranch. Re-used items include red pine from an old shack, old windows, old cedar logs, and old doors. Romelia shared a collection of Indian artifacts, old glass bottles, and horseshoes that tell the history of the land. The new house and barn were built

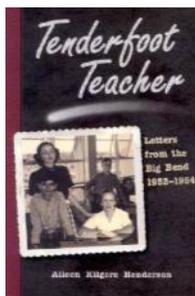
using “green” materials and a rainwater collection system. Twelve years of hard work, education, try again methods, and much help from the local Ag agent, Environmental Defense, the Nature Conservancy, Soil and Water Conservation District, TPWD, Texas Forest Service, and many others has resulted in a lovely, peaceful ranch, a dream come true! Their experiences led them to establish the Pedernales Wildlife Management Coop to combat the effects of land fragmentation on wildlife in Blanco County.

Everyone was invited to the ranch after the meeting for a walk-about and refreshments. It was the best ending to a great day. Many thanks to Harris and Romelia for sharing their treasures.



## TENDERFOOT TEACHER

by Margy Butler



Henderson, Aileen Kilgore, *Tenderfoot Teacher*, (2002) TCU Press, Ft. Worth

Just one more book about the Big Bend, and then we'll move (reluctantly) on. But this one just has to be part of the mix. Our friend Ro Wauer wrote the Forward for this book, so you can rely on it being an interesting read!

Aileen Kilgore was teaching fourth grade in a public school in Alabama in 1952 when life began to seem pretty same-o, same-o to her, which set her to thinking back to the extraordinary and interesting tales she had listened to when she was a WAC during WW II about a wild place in Texas called the Big Bend. A place where panthers roamed around and rumors of lost mines were rampant. And, oh yes, the Chisos Mountains were haunted.

“Why not go there to teach?” Maybe not to the Big Bend itself, but to a near town (good luck with that, as we all know – not too many towns out in the Big Lonesome, even these days.)

So she threw in the towel, resigned her Alabama position in the winter for the following year, sent off an application for a job in Alpine, and waited. And waited. The last day of the school year, her last working day, she got a response. Not from Alpine, but from some weird place called Panther Junction, to teach, and to be the principal of the new school (which would have one other teacher) at the National Park.

And therein is the tale – a most interesting one at that. The book is composed of a series of letters that she wrote to friends and family the two years she

taught and “principaled” at Panther Junction, at the Big Bend National Park Headquarters. Back in the old days when the park was new and even more isolated than it is in these times.

The book is fascinating – a chronicle of her days there, and of the many social times when the small community of residents got together. She tells of the hikes, and of the nature discoveries made while on those hikes. The trails are still there, for the most part, and it's interesting to read her observations from those nearly 60 years past, and compare them with what you can currently see in that rarefied atmosphere. She tells of her reaction to the isolation, and of the support of the small community, and of her longing to see a panther (which was a hard wish to fill.) She considers the resilience of the people, and their self sufficiency. She relates the sadness when Park Service personnel transfers occurred and people who had become important to her moved on. And there are some great stories about a skunk.

It's really such a charming book – even more so, knowing the surrounds and the mindset in that sparsely peopled place. The pictures are period pieces and interesting to compare to today's actualities. If you have a yen for the Big Bend, this is definitely a book that you will want to read.

The book was published in 2002 by TCU Press in Fort Worth. It's available on Amazon and other book-sellers, and the single review on Amazon, which is a 5 star review, says “This is one of the most interesting books [written] of the days of Big Bend being formed as a National Park!”

## THE JOURNEY SOUTH ENDS

by Sondra Fox



The journey south for most monarchs is over! Although I continue to see one every few days, the majority of them have reached their over-wintering site in the transvolcanic mountains northwest of Mexico City. Here's a condensed collection report from *Journey North* for the last month of the monarch journey.

The first monarchs reportedly arrived in Mexico about the week of October 9th. This picture is proof that the monarchs were entering Mexico. It was taken on the bank of the Rio Grande River, in the state of Chihuahua. The mountain in the background is on the U.S. side of the border, in Big Bend National Park. Three hundred monarchs were nectaring there that week on flowering shrubs that grow near water sources in the Chihuahua desert.

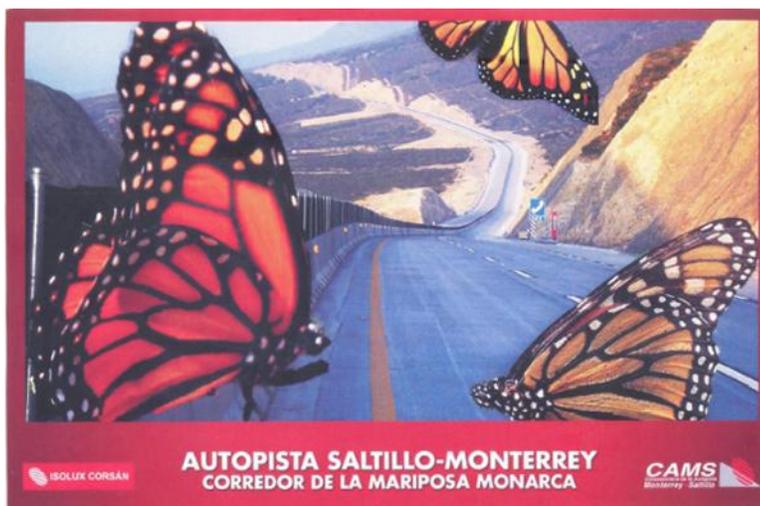
A surprising roost of 100 monarchs was reported in southern New Mexico round this time. This was the first roost report from that state and was much farther west than usual (probably another effect of the drought).

October 10-13, monarch expert Dr. Lincoln Brower and his team were researching in southwestern Texas to try to determine the effect the drought has had on the monarchs. They traveled about 100 miles northwest and then west of Boerne, Kendall Co., checking roadsides, ranches, local nurseries and Garner State Park. Dr. Brower collected monarchs to measure their lipid content during the drought.

Nearly every monarch examined appeared to be under weight as they should have been putting on significant mass at that time. However, there were nectar havens in bottomland forests along the river flood-plains. It is likely that this riverine habitat plays a key role in allowing monarchs to fuel up on their way to Mexico.

By Oct. 16th, Northern Mexico's skies were "painted orange and black" as monarchs crossed in the thousands. Mexico's geography funnels the migration into rivers of butterflies. As the butterflies enter Mexico, two geographic features compress their flight-path, the Gulf of Mexico and Mexico's Sierra Madre Oriental mountains. The Sierra Madre Oriental range stretches for 600 miles across Mexico to the southeast. As easterly winds

blow, the air rises over the east-facing mountain slopes. Monarchs use the mountains for a free lift southward. Highway signs give a warning to drive carefully. Monarch butterflies are mariposas monarcas now! This highway sign in northern Mexico warns drivers that they're crossing the monarch's migration corridor.



The official arrival date for the first monarchs to the over-wintering site was October 23rd. These monarchs are probably the great-great grandchildren of the butterflies that left Mexico last spring. Millions are flying to this specific point on our planet, a place none has been before. It's miraculous to realize they are guided by their genetic code, passed down through generations.

## A PRE-REPORT OF THE FALL 2011 BBRSP TRIP REPORT

*From Margy Butler*



Stories to be told  
Of Halloween and all,  
And people doing KP  
And smiling all the while.



Next month will tell the full tale  
Of travels West of late,  
So get prepared, they will be aired  
These tales, well worth the wait!

This is just a starter  
A breath of what's to come  
Of stories of the Big Bend  
And Alpine too, and some  
Old artifacts we heard of  
Dug up from ancient ground  
And pictographs along the trails  
And mountains all around.



Hiking through the boulders  
Painting on the porch  
Camping in the windstorm  
Stars by laser torch.



(Photo credits to Mike Childers, Daniel Adams, Jerry Stacy, Terry Whaley.)

## HILL COUNTRY WOODPECKERS AND NON-VOCAL BIRD SOUNDS

By Sherry Bixler

Nine of the twenty-four woodpecker species have been reported in the Texas hill country and two other species occur near our area. The most common year around species here are the Golden-fronted, Ladder-back and Downy Woodpeckers, while the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is often seen in winter. Less common are the Red-bellied Woodpecker and the Northern Flicker. Rare sightings include the Lewis' Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker and Red-naped Sapsucker. Pileated Woodpeckers occur just east of our area and Hairy Woodpeckers winter just to the north. Spotting any of the last five species is worth reporting.

The Golden-fronted Woodpecker is found in large areas of Mexico but only occurs in the United States in Texas and a small area of Oklahoma. Its beautiful yellow nape stands out; males also have a red crown. It has the same barred back as the Ladder-backed Woodpecker but is larger and does not have the facial pattern of the Ladder-backed. The neatly patterned Downy Woodpecker is smaller than either of these and has a definitive white stripe down its back.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker arrives in late fall and is slightly smaller than the Golden-fronted; both have a yellowish belly that is rarely seen as they cling closely to tree branches. All four sapsucker species drill evenly spaced holes to obtain both sap and the insects that are attracted to it. An amazing 246 species of trees have been used by sapsuckers.

All four of our common species lay 4 to 6 eggs in tree cavities, although the Golden-fronted will occasionally use a nest box. All eat insects, berries and fruit but the Golden-fronted also consumes acorns and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker eats cambium as it drills



holes. The Downy Woodpecker often tries to steal sap from sapsucker holes but sapsuckers usually defend their holes against any intruder.

Woodpeckers can be identified in flight by their flap-and-glide pattern and can often be located by listening for their tapping sounds or the 'pik' or 'churr' sounds they make. Many birds use non-vocal sounds including sounds made by feet, bills, wings or tails. Songbirds may clack their bills but most birds using non-vocal sounds are species with poor singing abilities. Woodpeckers are well-known for their noisy tapping and will tap not only on wood but also on metal siding, pipes, gutters or even trashcans.

Other birds may space their wing or tail feathers to produce a variety of sounds while in flight. Owls often strike their wings together and grouse drum with their wings cupped. Hummingbirds make various sounds with their wings but also sing softly. All the non-vocal sounds are used both in courtship displays and in defending territories, and all sounds are helpful when identifying birds. Tape recordings are often used to lure birds out of hiding, but have been banned in heavily visited birding areas and should never be used during mating season.

# 2011 TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST STATE MEETING

From Meeting Minutes by Sherry Bixler Photos by Jerry Stone, Sue Kersey, and Mike Childers

Fifteen members attended the state convention and Sue Kersey's Dragonfly Quilt won Best of Show. Her Barred Owl photo won first place in the wildlife photography division and Bill Luedecke's aerial photograph of Lake Buchanan and the Colorado won first place in the landscape division. Our trifold about restoring the Inks Dam Education Center and Outreach Programs there also took first place in the projects division. Sue Kersey also gave Sonny Arnold a wall hanging since he is retiring, and showed a Thank You card from Sonny.



## *JAVELINA (PECARI TAJACU) AND SOME COMMENTS ON THE BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK TRIP*

By Phil Wyde

I don't know how you could not know, but I will tell you anyway. About 30 members of our chapter drove to Big Bend Ranch State Park located in West Texas and the Chihuahuan Desert just a few weeks ago. It was a grand trip and all that went will have many fond memories of the adventure for a long time. We saw many, many plants (yes, in a desert), many birds (yes, in a desert) and certainly many, many rocks and geological formations. However, I did have one major disappointment. Not counting the birds, some horses, a few longhorn cattle, a beetle, ants, several butterflies and four mule deer, I did not see much animal life -- despite driving and trekking a number of miles. I need to quickly state that we saw animal burrows, holes, different scat and a lot of diverse animal tracks. The animals were there, but whether due to their low density, the time of the day that we were hiking or because I and the group that I was with were far less than stealthy, I saw very few of them. However, I did have three animal encounters that did "make my trip." One was with two baby javelinas (who still had their umbilical cords attached) and their mother. The other was with two tarantulas (one each on two successive days). I heard of a few other animal encounters by others. For example one group saw a spectacular collared lizard. This was verified with a photograph. I also heard that there was a mouse seen in the women's side of the bunk house and that Judy Bloomquist found a snake in her bed one night and another one in her toilet the next night. I cannot verify the latter two encounters as I was not present when they occurred, and no pictures were taken. I am also not sure what time of night the snakes were seen by Judy as she seems to have a difficult time -- with time. Regardless, when I got back from the trip, I realized that I did not know very much about either javelina or tarantulas. So I set about seeing what I could find out about both. I would like to

share highlights of what I learned about javelina now (major sources: Javelina [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us); The Collared Peccary -- Javelina -- DesertUSA [www.desertusa.com/magnov97/nov\\_pap/du\\_collpecc.html](http://www.desertusa.com/magnov97/nov_pap/du_collpecc.html); [Living With Javelina www.azgfd.gov/w\\_c/urban\\_javelina.shtm](http://Living With Javelina www.azgfd.gov/w_c/urban_javelina.shtm)), and leave the tarantulas for another time.

Taxonomically, javelina or collared peccaries, as they are also known, have been placed in the Animal Kingdom, class: Mammalia, order: Artiodactyla, family: Tayassuidae, genus: Pecari and species: tajacu. Three species of javelina are found in the New World. However, only one, the collared javelina (*Pecari tajacu*, our javelina) is found in the United States where it is indigenous to the Chihuahuan and Sonoran Deserts of Texas and Arizona, and in adjacent arid or semi-arid areas (e.g., in the South Texas brush country and the Edwards Plateau's oak-juniper woodlands). It should be noted that the collared javelina is the only wild, native **pig-like** animal found in the United States. I emphasize pig-like because although javelina look similar to pigs, they are NOT pigs. They are classified (as just indicated) in the family Tayassuidae while true pigs are members of the Suidae Family. Anatomical differences are the basis of this different placement. Javelina are more slender and much lighter than wild

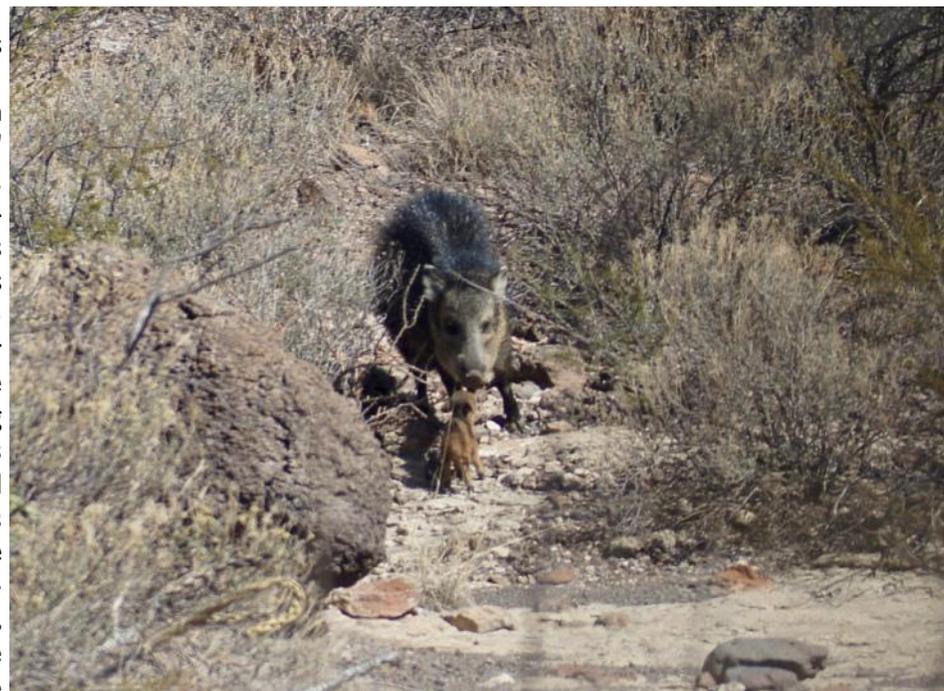


TPWD Photo

pigs (mature female javelina weigh about 30-50 pounds and mature males about 40 to 60 pounds) and have longer, thinner legs and smaller hooves. In addition javelina have only 3 toes on each hind foot (instead of 4), and the upper tusks (typically 1.5 inches long) are straight while feral wild pigs have curled upper tusks. Javelina also have a powerful musk gland on the top of their rumps which always emits an odor, so that they smell much worse than a pig which lack this gland. As the picture associated with this article indicates, mature javelina have large heads and long snouts with thick coats of dark-gray, bristly hair and band of white hair (collar) around the neck. A mane of long, stiff hairs runs down the back from head to rump, where scent gland is located.

Javelinas generally travel in small bands or "family groups." These typically range from 6 to 12 animals. However, groups containing as many as 50 animals have been seen. The groups move about mostly at night during the hotter times of the year and are most active during the cooler times of early morning and evening when the weather is cooler. Members eat, sleep, and forage together. The exceptions are the old and infirm. These apparently live and die in solitude. Although they eat insects, worms and reptiles, javelina are primarily herbivorous, and have

complex stomachs for digesting coarsely-chewed food. In their northern range, they often eat roots, bulbs, mesquite beans, nuts, berries, grass, lechuquilla, sotol, fruits and insects. However, the main dietary components of this species are agaves and prickly pears, probably because both of these have relatively high water content. (Agaves and prickly pear were



prevalent throughout the Big Bend Ranch State Park.) Javelina groups have a characteristic linear dominance hierarchy wherein a male is always dominant and the remainder of the order is largely determined by size. Each javelina group seems to have a somewhat limited home range. They tend to remain near permanent sources of water. Interestingly, unlike coyotes and

bobcats, javelinas are unable to evaporate moisture through panting to prevent overheating.

Territories are defended by the rubbing of the rump oil gland against rocks, tree trunks and stumps. Javelinas fend off adversaries by squaring off, laying back their ears, and clattering their canines. When fighting, they charge head on, bite, and occasionally lock jaws.

Javelina have a gestation period between 140-150 days, usually den in hollow logs or hollows in the ground, give birth to 1 to 2 young per pregnancy, and generally have a one year interval between births. Birthing mothers retreat from the group to prevent the newborn from being eaten by other group members. They rejoin the group 1 day after giving birth. Only the older sisters of the newborn are tolerated with the young and these often become nursemaids for the new mother. Weaning occurs at 2 to 3 months. Males reach sexual maturity at 11 months; females, at 8 to 14 months. Despite the high mortality rate in this species, members have a life span in the wild of up to 10 years. In captivity, javelina have been known to live 24 years.

Javelina can vocalize and their vocalizations have been classified into three main groups: alert sounds, aggressive sounds and submissive sounds. I can personally tell you that the mother javelina that we met definitely was not making submissive sounds.

According to the TPWD website, javelina have long held an undeserved reputation for ferocity. Part of this is due to the fact that they have poor eyesight and will often remain around humans longer than other wildlife when startled. (They do have good hearing.) Thus, they are often cornered and when this happens they will defend themselves very effectively with sharp canine teeth or "tusks." (The name "javelina" comes from the Spanish word "javelin" which means javelin or spear). This almost happened when our group met the mother javelina and her two very young babies. When we came upon them, the young ones were only about 20 feet away, frolicking and making a lot of noise. At first we did not see "Mama." But when we did, she was about 75 feet away rooting around. When she realized we were there she started to get very agitated. When she realized we were very near her young she began to make threatening moves and vocalizing. Our guide, Nelson, really wanted us to move on. He was especially worried that "Mama" would call "Poppa," who apparently can have a very bad temper. Most of us

finally did leave the site when it looked like we were going to be charged. Only Mike Childers hung back, risking life and limb, to get the picture for us (the one that you see associated with this article). What a guy! Being a savvy Texas Master Naturalist, I guess that he knew that aggressive encounters with humans are very, very rare (TPWD website).

Apparently many dogs do not have our good sense and many have been crippled or killed when trying to attack cornered javelina. Even if not physically dangerous to humans, javelina are often a problem to landowners when they become habituated to homes and human activities. When this happens, they often crawl into spaces under homes and may cause significant damage to yards, gardens and sprinkler system because of their habit of rooting for food. On the positive side, in both Texas and Arizona, javelina are classified as a game animal and may be legally harvested in appropriate areas (e.g., not in city limits) with a hunting license, during hunting season, in counties which have a season. As with deer hunting, javelina hunting is a source of income for many. It should be noted that javelina cannot be killed on purpose out of season or without a hunting permit.

One of the primary reasons people have problems with javelina is because some of them intentionally feed them. When this happens they can soon become accustomed to humans and may eventually become dangerous. So if you go into areas that have javelina, never deliberately feed them or make your food or garbage available to them! In fact, generally leave them alone.

The main predators of javelinas are humans, coyotes, mountain lions and bobcats. Interestingly, javelinas have been kept as domestic pets, and even fattened by Central and South American Indians. I am not sure how wide spread the domestication of javelina is in the United States, but suspect it is minimal if it occurs at all in present times. That said, in the "singularly unexceptional" Buffalo Rose Bar and Restaurant in Alpine there was a picture on the wall of a man holding a leash attached to a collar that was around a rather large javelina standing at his side.

I have two last comments. 1) The plural of javelina is javelinas. However, in everything that I read, javelina and javelinas were used interchangeably. 2) If you did not go, or not been, you need to go out to the Big Bend area of Texas.

## 2011 NATIVE PLANT TOUR HOST GIFTS

By Mike Childers

Hosts for the 2011 Native Plant Garden Tour were each presented with Scrapbooks created by Sammye Childers and this years Tour Poster. Each scrapbook had photos of their gardens, the brochure and flyer.



# GALLERY



Collared Lizard  
Jerry Stone

Western Dogface Butterfly  
Jerry Stone



Lubber Grasshopper  
Jerry Stone

Fearless Ranger Carol handles the Tarantula  
Mike Childers



# GALLERY

Feather Dahlea  
Jerry Stone



Guayacan  
Mike Childers



Apache Plume  
Mike Childers



Rock Cactus Bloom  
Mike Childers



**Texas Master Naturalist  
Highland Lakes Chapter**

**December Meeting and Christmas Party**

**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
Quail Point in Horseshoe Bay  
5 pm**

**Bring** your Own Adult Beverage for the evening  
Appetizers, Main Course, Coffee and Iced Tea PROVIDED

Please **bring** one of the following to feed 8:  
Vegetable - Side - Salad - Dessert

**PLEASE RSVP by Nov 24<sup>th</sup>**

if you and your guest are coming and  
what you would like to bring from the list above  
Lyn Davis [ldavis511@gmail.com](mailto:ldavis511@gmail.com) or 830-596-1766

5:00 - 6:00 pm	Cocktail Hour
6:00 - 6:45	Dinner
6:45 - 8:00	December HLMN Meeting <b>Awards &amp; Pins</b> <b>2011 New Officers Installation</b>
8:00	Meeting Adjourns

Silent Auction will close at 9:00

**After 8:00 pm** For all the MANY volunteer hours  
that our chapter has accumulated,  
please stay and celebrate with music and dancing

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND AT/EVENTS CALENDAR**

Mike Childers

**NOVEMBER EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Stars in the Park Program Blanco State Park	Nov 19 5:30pm
Boy Scouts Hatchery Program Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery	Nov 19 10am - noon

**FUTURE EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Learning More about Our Native Texan, the Golden-cheeked Warbler Highland Lakes Bird and Wildflower Society Meeting - Marble Falls Library	Dec 1 10am
Flying Wild Educator Workshop Mitchell Lake Audobon Center, San Antonio, TX	Dec 7 9am-4pm
Christmas Party - Awards and Pins - 2012 New Officers Installation Quail Point, Horseshoe Bay	Dec 7 5pm
Inks Lake State Park Volunteer Banquet Inks Lake State Park Maintenance Barn	Jan 5 Noon - 2pm
Raptor Program - Doris Meager Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery	Jan 7 i-2pm
Invasive Mussels and the Highland Lakes 3 identical 2.5 hour programs at Burnet, Marble Falls, and Kingsland Libraries	Jan 18-19
Balcones Training Workshop for Bridges to Birding and Going Buggy Programs Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge - Flying X Ranch	Feb 16 9am-4pm
Day in the Park Blanco State Park	May 11

For volunteer opportunities and events scheduled at Inks Lake State Park, Blanco State Park, and Balcones Canyonlands, Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, check these websites for information:

[http://beta-www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/parks/find-a-park/inks-lake-state-park/park\\_events/](http://beta-www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/parks/find-a-park/inks-lake-state-park/park_events/)

[http://beta-www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/parks/find-a-park/blanco-state-park/park\\_events/](http://beta-www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/parks/find-a-park/blanco-state-park/park_events/)

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/balcones/>

<http://friendsofbalcones.org/>

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wildland/onlineregistration/ecowebevents.cfm>

**Stewardship**

An ethic that embodies cooperative planning and management of environmental resources with organizations, communities and others to actively engage in the prevention of loss of habitat and facilitate its recovery in the interest of long-term sustainability

Please submit pictures, articles, reports, stories, calendar and event entries, etc. to [chili865@gmail.com](mailto:chili865@gmail.com). Photos should have captions and appropriate credits. The deadline for submissions to each months newsletter is the 10th of the month and publication will be by the 15th.