



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

# THE TEXAS STAR

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## Black Swallowtail

### JULY PROGRAM: BEWARE OF CITY SLICKERS:

### THE URBANIZATION OF THE HILL COUNTRY

This month's program is "**BEWARE OF CITY SLICKERS**", which will touch on aspects of "The American Dream," globalization and urban sprawl and urbanization of the Hill Country. Please join us on Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Riverside Nature Center at 150 Francisco Lemos St. in Kerrville for a social hour, followed by this timely program at 7:00 p.m.

Our speaker, Ridlon (Kip) Kiphart grew up in Cincinnati. He received a scholarship to Harvard University, graduating with a B.A. degree a short time after Emerson and Thoreau. His Doctorate of Medicine was obtained from Northwestern University Medical School shortly after the discovery of penicillin. Residency training took him to Baylor University College of Medicine in Houston and the University of Missouri Medical Center in Columbia. After a year on the staff at UMMC, he entered private practice in Dallas as a thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon.

Kip was in the first class of the North Texas Master Naturalist Program and became the chapter's first president. The North Texas Chapter was the second chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. He initiated the TxDOT Project involving several organizations and was involved in establishing the White Rock Prairie Project and resurrecting the prairie restoration project at the Anderson Farm at Cedar Hill State Park. He has volunteered over 1000 hours as a

## Texas Master Naturalist.

After moving with his wife, June, to suburban Bergheim in July 2001, he was asked by the State Coordinator of the Texas Master Naturalist program to be an adviser on the steering committee for the formation of the new Hill Country Chapter in Kerrville. He remains on the Board as an advisor and is proud to be associated with the newly formed chapter.



## Chapter members participate in the Kerrville Butterfly Count

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SANDY PEÑA

On Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, seven Master Naturalists got out their butterfly books, and went looking for butterflies. We were participating in the second annual Kerrville Butterfly Count, which is part of a national counting event held each summer. Our group consisted of: Julia Campbell, Jane Crone, Barbara Lowenthal, Priscilla Stanley, Kay White, Gay Gilbert, and myself. Others who joined in the fun were Bill Lindemann (our leader), Susan Sander, Raul Peña, and Terry Doyle, who is a butterfly expert from San Antonio. (Terry is also the one who identified Myrna Langford's mystery moth last month.) Terry told us that rivers and creeks are "highways" for butterflies, and the Hill Country is a crossroads for butterflies coming from all four directions. And, would you believe, the kinds of species we find around here depend upon the dirt! In other words, what grows well in our soils attracts certain kinds of butterflies more than others. Terry also let us know that Texas has more butterfly species recorded than any other state!!

The group started at the Riverside Nature Center, going over every inch of ground looking for the elusive patches of moving color. A net was used to put some butterflies in a vented container for better viewing. Each was successfully released after it was identified. In between sightings, some of us gabbed about the RNC's wildflower display, and even did a little weeding! After lunch, we moved on to the Butterfly Garden at Kerrville-Schreiner State Park to do more hunting. If you haven't visited this garden yet, you are in for a treat! (And if you are inspired to do some work there, the project number is KR-01-B). Our final tally for the day was 26 species and 266 individuals. We had a great time, learned a lot, and saw some truly beautiful species that don't often visit our own yards. We'll be doing the butterfly count again next year, so make plans to participate!

*All photos in this newsletter were taken by Raul and Sandy Peña.*



Common Checkered-Skipper sips nectar from a gaillardia

**Volunteer Project at the State Park:** The Butterfly Garden at Kerrville-Schreiner State Park is about 75% planted with native or cultivars of native plants. More plants will be added this fall. It is a wonderful place for discovery and learning about native species. We are in need of helpers to prune and weed. On Monday mornings (between 8 and 9 o'clock) a group works for about 2-3 hours. If you are interested and are not able to come on Mondays we can arrange

another day. Please consider earning your volunteer hours in this beautiful spot. For more information please contact Barbara Lowenthal (896-0696) or Ernest Tremayne (895-1106).

## TWO MORE MEMBERS CERTIFIED IN OUR CHAPTER

**Mike Johnson and Kay White will receive their Certified Master Naturalist certificates and dragonfly pins at our July meeting. Thus, seven months into our first year of Chapter meetings, we will have 54% of our members certified.**

**For the information of our prospective members, a Master Naturalist achieves certification by completing the 40 hours of required training, a minimum of 40 hours of approved volunteer service, and the minimum of 8 hours of approved Advanced Training within approximately one year.**



### Bordered Patch on a gourd vine

## CALENDAR

**"APPROVED AT"** INDICATES THAT AN EVENT HAS BEEN APPROVED AS ADVANCED TRAINING FOR OUR CHAPTER. We receive little advance notice on some training opportunities. Please watch your e-mail!

**Monday, July 28 Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter meeting** at 6:30 PM for social hour and 7:00 PM for a presentation entitled "Beware of City Slickers" by Kip Kiphart. (See additional information on page 1). The public is invited to attend.

**Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>** 8 AM to noon, **Brush Management Field Day**, meet at the Waring Fire House to drive to the Ranch for demonstrations, see Susan Sander's e-mail of 7/9/03 9:11 PM for more information and directions.  
**APPROVED AT**

## NATURE FACTS: Did you know...?

**Why does a turtle cross the road?** This time of year, it could be a female looking for a place to lay her eggs. Crossing a busy road is always a perilous journey for a turtle. Many of us stop to move the turtle off the road. Sometimes we wonder which way we should move the turtle, the way he or she was going, or toward the water. Dr. Jim Dobie, the herpetologist who taught our class on reptiles and amphibians, told me that he always takes the turtle to

the closest water.

It is common for many wild creatures to urinate when you pick them up, perhaps to help you decide to put them down. Recently on the way to town, we stopped to rescue a large, "middle-of-the-road" turtle. As I carefully picked up the turtle, I was inundated with what seemed like two quarts of urine, soaking me and still leaving a substantial puddle in the road. Jim Dobie enlightened me that female turtles do plan ahead at nesting time. The female expends a great deal of energy walking an often substantial distance to lay her eggs. What if she reaches where she wants to nest and the ground is hard as a rock? (not that unusual in Hill Country!) Ah ha! The enormous volume of urine she carries just for this eventuality softens up that hard dirt pretty well, so that she can successfully dig her nest and complete her egg laying. Isn't Nature grand?

I hope that your Texas Star plants, from the seeds we received at our Class of 2002 graduation, are still doing well. Our Texas Stars continue to bloom and make seed. The dry seed can be collected now to be planted on scratched bare soil in September, collected and spread to other sites in your yard, or left to Mother Nature to plant it as she sees fit.



**Chapter Members:** This is your newsletter. You can share your interesting projects or nature experiences with our fellow members. Please submit articles to the Editor, Priscilla Stanley at [jpbstan@ktc.com](mailto:jpbstan@ktc.com)

## Reakirt's Blue