

APRIL PROGRAM:

THE USE AND IMPORTANCE OF BIRDS TO NATIVE AMERICANS IN TEXAS AND ADJACENT AREAS

Our April program will be a presentation on "The Use and Importance of Birds to Native Americans in Texas and Adjacent Areas" by Dr. Darrell Creel of The University of Texas at Austin.

Birds were important to Native Americans as a food source but were also important as sources for many kinds of implements, textiles, ornaments, and even musical instruments. Birds were also important in religious rituals. The presentation will be a general overview of these uses with specific examples representing several species of birds.

Dr. Creel is the Director of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin and a member of the faculty in the Department of Anthropology. He has conducted archeological research in many parts of Texas as well as Louisiana, New Mexico, and Arizona. In recent years, his research has focused on central Texas, the Caddo tribal area in northeast Texas, and the Mimbres River area in southwest New Mexico.

This program will be held at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St, in Kerrville, on **Monday, April 26th** beginning with a social time at **6:30 PM**. The meeting begins at **7:00 PM**. The meeting is free, and the public is invited to attend. We hope that you can join us.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

& VOLUNTEER PROJECT OF THE MONTH:

UGRA'S VOLUNTEER RIVER MONITORS PROGRAM

BY SANDY PEÑA COMMENT: LINKED TO ALL PICS



Photo by Raul Pena

Spring at the Swimming Hole: Sandy Pena discovers a spring while taking a water sample for UGRA analysis.

Last month, UGRA announced the expansion of its "Volunteer River Monitors Program" with three new studies for the Upper Guadalupe. The first study focused on springs, seeps, and tributaries of the river here in Kerr County. I volunteered to collect samples from sections of Verde Creek, Turtle Creek, West Creek, and a spring on the river just west of Center Point. This turned out to be a really fun learning experience and a chance to see these creeks "up close and personal." The headwaters of Verde Creek, no wider than a couple of jumps, begin just past the remains of the old Camp Verde Civil War post. No doubt the soldiers watered their camels there. Even today, the folks who own the headwaters land still drink straight from the creek. At another sampling spot farther downstream, I had to work my way down to the bank through a thicket of poison hemlock, and balance on slippery rocks to keep my plastic jug in the moving water. Collecting at the junction of West Creek and Turtle Creek, I watched dragonflies flitting to and fro over the water, as I held on to the barbed wire strung across the creek to keep folks like me from trespassing. The most delightful discovery of the five samples I took was at the "swimming hole" location on the river road near Center Point.

I have driven that road hundreds of times and watched kids swinging out over the river on an old rope hanging from a huge cypress tree. But I had never realized that a spring flowed into the river right there. Sure enough, as I stepped down the bank, I could hear the spring before I saw it. The crystal clear water bubbled out of the ground, protected by tiny green ferns and grasses, creating several small, clear pools in the hollows of the tree roots as it followed its well-worn path down into the river. What more reward can a Master Naturalist ask for?

If you'd like to discover more about the Guadalupe and help UGRA in its ongoing stewardship efforts, please call Charles Kneuper or Scott Loveland (both are on our chapter advisory board) at 896-5445. The volunteer project ID is: CC-01-A.

CALENDAR

“APPROVED AT” INDICATES THAT AN EVENT HAS BEEN APPROVED AS ADVANCED TRAINING FOR OUR CHAPTER.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SEVERAL ITEMS IN THE CALENDAR AND IN THE EARTH DAY CELEBRATION THAT FOLLOWS HAVE BEEN APPROVED AS AT FOR OUR CHAPTER.

For [Cibolo Nature Center events](#), contact Cibolo at **(830) 249-4616** or by e-mail at nature@cibolo.org.

Class sizes are limited, so it is important to pre-register. Fees apply to some events.

April 21: Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter- Board Meeting - Noon at Riverside Nature Center.
Chapter members may attend.

April 24: Earth Day Celebration and Plant Sale (see article below)

April 24: 9 AM to noon Insect Extravaganza! by Nathan Riggs, Texas Cooperative Extension entomologist Ants at Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne. Butterflies and dragonflies will be the focus of his talk, but any insect is welcome. Limit: 25. Cost: Members \$5/person, \$8/couple and \$2/child, Non-members \$8/person, \$15/couple and \$3/child. Contact the CNC by phone at (830) 249-4616 or www.cibolo.org **“APPROVED AT”**

April 26: Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter, “The Use and Importance of Birds to Native Americans in Texas and Adjacent Areas” by Dr. Darrel Creel at **6:30 PM** at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St, Kerrville (see article above).

May 1: Nature Fair in the Kerrville-Schreiner Park co-sponsored by the City of Kerrville Parks & Recreation Department and our Chapter. (see details in article below)

May 4: Field Trip to “Medina Garden Nursery by [NPSOT – Kerrville Chapter](#). This native plant nursery has a 2+ acre demonstration garden, including a new Caliche Garden with native plants. Drive directly to the Nursery on Route 16 at the southern City Limit of Medina on the west side of the highway (right side coming from Kerrville) for a **2:00 PM guided tour**, or meet at **Riverside Nature Center at 1:15 PM to carpool or caravan.**

May 4 at 6:30 PM “Rare & Endemic Plants of the SW Edwards Plateau” by Jason Singhurst, a Phytogeographer with Texas Parks & Wildlife, Wildlife Diversity Program at [NPSOT – Boerne](#) at the Cibolo Nature Center See www.npsot.org/boerne for driving directions.

April 14 – May 19 9 AM – Noon: “Botanical Drawing of Native Plants” by Joy Poe M.F.A. at Riverside Nature Center for six Wednesday mornings, registration = \$15.

May 6, 7, 8 all day Wildlife Field Research at Cibolo Nature Center Research Directors: Jan Wrede and Bill Ward
Volunteers receive hands on experience doing plant and animal surveys that monitor the effectiveness of our land management

practices: burning, mowing, exotic plant removal, grass and forb identification and more. You will be trained to work for one day on a research team led by a local expert. (Check with Cibolo or their website for times of the free training in areas such as Grass and Forb Identification etc.). **Free**. Contact the CNC by phone at (830) 249-4616 or www.cibolo.org **Training classes are "APPROVED AT"; Research counts as Volunteer Hours.**

May 19: Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter- Board Meeting - Noon at Riverside Nature Center.
Chapter members may attend.

May 22 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM: Tree and Shrub Identification by Susan Sander sponsored by Club Ed (Kerrville Adult Education) and Riverside Nature Center. Workshop fee is \$45, and part of fee goes to Riverside Nature Center. You must pre-register at 830-895-4386 or www.kerrvilleisd.net/clubed . This workshop will teach the use of the Tree Identification Key, a botanical decision-tree system that will allow you to correctly identify most Hill Country trees and shrubs by observing their leaf structure and characteristics. You will have practical hands-on practice identifying trees at Riverside. **APPROVED AT**

May 24 Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter, "Insects of the Hill Country" by Chapter member and **entomologist Ed Gage** at **6:30 PM** at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St, Kerrville.

MAY DAY with MOTHER NATURE

A Family Affair

Saturday, May 1st, 2004 at Kerrville-Schreiner Park

As you know, our Chapter is co-sponsoring a Nature Fair with the City of Kerrville Parks & Recreation Department. The program includes some excellent presenters and topics of interest for the whole family.

Speaker schedule:

9-10 am **Guadalupe River Critters** – UGRA staff

10-11 am **Close Encounters with Snakes**– Kathy Rice Fletcher

Kathy is a native of Texas and has loved wildlife and the outdoors since early childhood. After receiving a B.S. in Biology from Principia College in Illinois, Kathy worked for several nature centers and outdoor education facilities where her responsibilities ranged from rehabilitating birds of prey, teaching pre-schoolers, bottle raising exotic wildlife, to facilitating high ropes courses. In her current position as Naturalist for the Environmental Leadership Program at Mo-Ranch, Kathy is responsible for developing and teaching the living history and natural history outdoor education curriculum, as well as maintaining the live animal specimens in the Mo-Ranch classrooms. The subject of reptiles is a personal favorite of hers since she took home her first snake over 19 years ago.

10-10:15 am Ribbon-cutting Ceremony for the new city park)

11-noon **Butterflies, Jewels of the Skies** – Dr. Robert Carpenter

Collecting, mounting, displaying butterflies has been a life-long family hobby. The family collection has between 2000 and 3000 specimens from around the world.

Noon-1 pm **The Haile Family Storytellers**

1-2 pm **The Secret Lives of Bugs** – Dr. Ed Gage

2-3 pm **The Ins and Outs of Trees** – Lee Haile and his portable sawmill

Children's Activities: throughout the day

Exhibitors: (will be there all day)

1. **Texas Parks and Wildlife Trunk Show** - Rufus Stephens, Wildlife Biologist
2. **Texas Pioneer and Mountain Man demonstration** – Allen Heiser
3. **Hill Country Archeology Exhibit** – Bryant Saner Mr. Saner works as a field archeologist with the Ft. St. Louis Archeological Project in Victoria County, Texas. His publications include papers on stone tools of the Texas Hill Country. He is vice-president of the Hill Country Archeological Association
4. Natural Resources Conservation Service **Rain-machine Demonstration** – Billy Griffin
5. **Bear Springs Blossom Nature Conservation Group** – The Bonenbergers
6. **The Nature Conservancy of Texas** – Paul Barwick
7. **Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center** – Bill Elliot
8. **The Monarch Larval Monitoring Project** – Kip Kiphart
9. **Old Tunnel Bat Exhibit** – Maggie Tatum
10. **Native Plant Society of Texas - Boerne Chapter**– Suzanne Young
11. **Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter** (event co-sponsor)
12. **Insect Exhibit** – Ed Gage
13. **Aquarium** – UGRA

Earth Day Celebration and Mostly Native Plant Sale

April 24 8 AM – 3 PM: This annual event is co-sponsored by Riverside Nature Center and the Native Plant Society of Texas - Kerrville Chapter. It is held at **Riverside Nature Center**. **Admission and the seminars are free.** There will be live music, food, and events for children and for adults throughout the day.

Highlights:

Mostly Native Plant Sale will include well-known native plants as well as some more unusual, hard-to-find native plants grown especially for this sale. Herbs and some near-native plants will also be sold. Plants will be available in 4 inch, one gallon and two gallon-size pots.

9 AM “Wildfire Preparedness” by Jan Fulkerson of the Texas Forest Service - Urban Wildland Interface will discuss plants, landscaping choices, and landscaping materials that can make your rural home better able to withstand a wildland fire. She will show examples of how a "firewise" landscape can also be aesthetically pleasing to people and attractive to wildlife as well. **Approved AT**

10:30 AM “A Passion for Trees” by David Bamberger of the Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve, discussing how he has planted thousands of trees on his ranch to mitigate the ravages of oak wilt. **Approved AT**

1:00 PM “Lawn Watering in Kerrville – An Explanation of the Watering Schedules” recently enacted by the City Council for City residents by Paul Knippel, Director of Development and Infrastructure for Kerrville.

1:00 PM “Water Issues in Rural Kerr County” for residents outside the City by Lon Langley, General Manager of the Headwaters Underground Water Conservation District.

2:00 PM “Juniper Interception of Rainwater” by Dr. Keith Owens of Texas A&M University on his ongoing study quantifying the impact of “cedar” trees on the fate of rain falling on the cedar canopy. **Approved AT**

YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU! HURRY! THERE IS STILL TIME TO VOLUNTEER! This month we will begin the application process for our Fall 2004 Class. As in past years, we will be doing a chapter display/applications/information booth at several events, to tell others about the Texas Master Naturalist program and the wonderful volunteer activities of the Hill Country Chapter, and to encourage folks to apply for our next training

class. For these events, we need members to sign up to work at our booth for 1-2 hours at a time on the following Saturdays:

1. **April 24th** at Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville (their annual Earth Day event. Many of our Class of 2003 members were recruited at this event)
2. **May 1st** at the new Kerrville-Schreiner City Park (our Chapter's Nature Fair for the official opening)

Please, if you can volunteer a couple of hours for any (or all!) of these events, there will be a sign-up sheet at the March 22nd chapter meeting. And, if you'd like to volunteer but can't be at our meeting, please email John Rogers (jmrrogers@ev1.net), our VP of PR and Communications. Help get the word out about our Chapter and what being a member means to YOU!

MASTER NATURALIST CERTIFICATIONS FOR 2004

At our March meeting, **Tracy Garafano** and **Lee Haile** became the first members of the new Class of 2003 to achieve certification as Texas Master Naturalists.



Comment: Don't know how I did this pic!!!!

Photo by Priscilla Stanley

Tracy Garafano and Lee Haile celebrate their first certification with bouquets of Texas Mountain laurel

At our April meeting, we will have four re-certifications of members of the Class of 2002 including **Myrna Langford**, **Jim Stanley**, **Priscilla Stanley** and **Maggie Tatum**.

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. The Master Naturalist program encourages members to continue serving their communities, and continue their education by requiring a minimum of 40 hours of approved volunteer service, and a minimum of 8 hours of approved Advanced Training in each successive year to achieve recertification for that year.

REFRESHMENTS

Thanks go to **Myrna Langford** and **Barbara Lowenthal** for the elegant and delightful refreshments at our March meeting. Refreshments for our April meeting will be provided by **Angelo Falzarano** and **Karen Johnson**.

Please send newsletter contributions and comments to your Editor, Priscilla Stanley at jpbstan@kctc.com



Texas Star

Lindheimera texana

Our Chapter wildflower is in bloom now and is having a wonderful year thanks to all the rain this Spring. Enjoy it!

T E X A S

