

THE TEXAS STAR

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HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

MAY PROGRAM

Our May program will be a field trip to Enchanted Rock on May 23, led by Bill Lindemann. Bill's presentation, scheduled for 12:00 noon until 3:00 pm, will be on the geology of Enchanted Rock and will count for advanced training hours.

All members need to check in at the Ranger station, and it might be a good idea to wear a name tag. Please bring a sack lunch.

Parking is limited and gasoline is expensive, so please car pool if possible.

In case of rain, we will reschedule. If you have questions or for more information, contact Sharon Corley at 830 669 2146.

Bill Lindemann was born in Gonzales County and attended public school there. He received his BA (1960) and MS (1963) degrees in geology from UT Austin. He has been married to his wife, Janet, for 42 years. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Bill retired from Exxon in 1994, and switched his vocation in geology to an avocation in birding. A birder for almost 40 years, he began writing a weekly column, "Birding in the Hill Country", in 1997. It is published in the *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post* and the *Kerrville Daily Times*.

Bill has served as president of the Native Plant Society of Texas and is still active in the Society. He helped form the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center in 2000. He frequently speaks on nature subjects to schools, garden clubs and professional organizations in the Hill Country. He has had a lifelong interest in all facets of nature and is currently promoting historical and natural preservation in our area through education, outreach and example.

We hope that you can join us!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JIM STANLEY

First, I want to thank Phyllis Muska and Ginny deWolf for putting together our new Chapter display board – it's really nice. If you haven't seen it, it means you didn't attend the Cibolo Plant Sale, the Riverside Earth Day, or our last monthly Chapter meeting, so shame on you! I also want to thank the volunteers who tended the display at both Cibolo and Riverside – we had a good response both places. Ron Hood could use some help staffing the display at the

Bandera Home and Landscape Show on May 21, so if you can help, contact Ron.

We have just sent out a record number of applications for our next class this fall, and we predict a record number of students for the new class. This means we can expect a healthy growth rate for our Chapter, more educated Hill Country Naturalists, more volunteers, etc. all good things. So y'all keep spreading the word.

The State Master Naturalist Meeting will again be held at Mo Ranch in October. We need someone to organize a bonfire get-together one night at the meeting, so if you'd like to volunteer, please contact Sandy Pena.

In our ever-changing procedures for reporting and keeping volunteer and advanced training hours, we have now determined that keeping the travel time and the volunteer time separate is a waste of time. So from now on, when reporting volunteer hours, please total the actual volunteer time and your travel time together and report a single number. This should make it easier for you and for Tracy. Just a reminder; travel time is *not* counted for advanced training events, only for volunteer hours.

Quote of the month: "The major problems in the world today are the result of the difference between the way nature works and the way people think . . . "

Gregory Bateson

TEXAS BIRDS AND BIRDERS

Birdwatchers make a pretty big flock:

Number of birders in United States in 2004: *85.2 million*

Number of birders in United States in 1983: *21 million*

Percentage who are female: *56*

Percentage who are ages 16-24: *16*

Percentage who are ages 25-39: *24*

Percentage who are ages 40-59: *37*

Percentage who are older than 60: *23*

Percentage who hold college degrees: *28*

Percentage who earn more than \$50,000 a year: *47*

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's National Survey on Recreation and Environment, 2000 survey.

Total number of birders updated for 2004 by the Forest Service.

Nearly 600 species of birds have been sighted in Texas. Here are the top spots for birding in our state, along with the birds you might expect to see at each:

1. Aransas National Wildlife Reserve, Austwell (north of Rockport) – Roseate spoonbills, terns, egrets and, in the spring, whooping cranes
2. Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Anahuac – Indigo buntings, painted buntings, grosbeaks, fulvous whistling ducks and orioles, herons and egrets.
3. Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, Mission – Green jays, plain chachalacas and buntings.

4. Big Bend National Park – Colima warblers, Mexican ducks and Lucifer hummingbirds.
5. Bolivar Flats, Port Bolivar – Reddish egrets, roseate spoonbills, terns, sandpipers and both brown and white pelicans.
6. Davis Mountains State Park, Fort Davis – White-winged doves, Montezuma quail.
7. Falcon Dam, Falcon Heights (near Roma) – Small green kingfishers, varied buntings, pygmy owls and Muscovy ducks.
8. Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area, Canadian – Lesser prairie chickens, bald eagles, burrowing owls.
9. High Island – Warblers and various waterfowl.
10. Lost Maples State Natural Area, Vanderpool – Golden-cheeked warblers, black-capped vireo.
11. Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Rio Hondo – Roseate spoonbills, egrets, terns.
12. Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Canyon – Wild turkey, roadrunners.
13. Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, south of Alamo – Cinnamon teals, least grebes, red-billed pigeons, green kingfishers.

Can you match the common bird names with their Texas nicknames? Answers below the Calendar section.

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|-----|----------------------|----|---------------|
| 1. | Goldfinch | a. | Water turkey |
| 2. | Cedar waxwing | b. | Summer duck |
| 3. | Caracara | c. | Duck hawk |
| 4. | Cormorant | d. | Fish hawk |
| 5. | Roadrunner | e. | Mexican eagle |
| 6. | Merlin | f. | Sparrow hawk |
| 7. | Shrike | g. | Wild canary |
| 8. | Meadowlark | h. | Butcherbird |
| 9. | Nighthawk | i. | Jackdaw |
| 10. | Mottled duck | j. | Paisano |
| 11. | Osprey | k. | Rain crow |
| 12. | Peregrine | l. | Bullbat |
| 13. | Kestrel | m. | Field lark |
| 14. | Grackle | n. | Pigeon hawk |
| 15. | Yellow-billed cuckoo | o. | Fool bird |

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2005 CLASS!

The Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program is beginning its 2005 membership application period, which will run through July 15. The classes will run from August 31 through November 16 – twelve weeks of training scheduled on Wednesday mornings, plus three Saturday field trips. This year's fee will be \$95, which covers all class materials including the reference notebook. If you know anyone who might be interested in applying, have them contact Priscilla Stanley, Chapter Membership Chairman, at 830 257 2094.

FREDERICKSBURG NATIVESCAPES GARDEN TOUR

This year's *Fredericksburg Nativescapes Garden Tour* will be held on Saturday, May 21, from 10:00am–5:00pm. Sponsored by the Fredericksburg Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), the tour features five residential gardens in the Fredericksburg area. The native and xeriscape gardens on this year's tour include both urban and rural settings, with landscape designs ranging from structured to wildscapes in a variety of soil types: NPSOT members, along with volunteer docents and some garden owners, will be at each site to answer questions.

Featured gardens include:

- Bierschwale Estate *Victoria Country Gardens* – 110 North Bowie – eclectic and historical
- Dian and Harlan Stal's home *Mansefeldt* – 126 Cherry Springs Road in Doss – wildflower meadow and herb garden
- Diana and Jack Gotcher's gardens at *Star Creek Ranch* – 236 Doss Spring Creek Road – garden on a ledge overlooking a creek
- Liz and Al Napier's garden – 193 West Ledge Stone Drive in Settler's Ridge – rocky slope, "stone and water" theme
- Pioneer Museum demonstration gardens – 309 West Main in Fredericksburg – examples of plants encountered by German settlers when they arrived in 1846

Tickets are \$7, children 17 and under free. Tickets may be purchased 9:30am–2pm on the day of the tour at Marktplatz (100 block of West Main Street, directly across from the Gillespie County Courthouse). Maps will be provided with ticket purchase. Tickets are also available at each of the tour sites starting at 10am. Box lunches at \$10 each will be available at the Mansefeldt site until sold out. For more information, call Liz Althaus, cochairperson of the tour, at 830 997 3011 or email fredericksburg@npsot.org.

MASTER NATURALIST MILESTONES/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/KUDOS

Thanks to **Cheryl Griebenow** and **Wilma Teague** for bringing refreshments to our April meeting. Sign up now for July, August, and September meetings – sign-up sheet available at Enchanted Rock trip in May, or contact Wanda Mattarocci.

CALENDAR

May 18: Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter board meeting – 2:00pm at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville – chapter members may attend.

May 21: Fredericksburg Nativescapes Garden Tour – 10:00am–5:00pm ([see above](#))

May 21: How to Get Water without Drilling a Well – 8:30am–4:30pm – seminar at Selah/Bamberger Ranch Preserve near Johnson City. \$100 per person, 25% discount for certified Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners. 830 868 2630 or brp@tstar.net for more information or to register.

May 23: Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter monthly meeting – field trip to Enchanted Rock ([see above](#))

May 26: Hill Country Birding Group – 7:00pm – quarterly meeting, Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville – presentation on chimney swifts by Paul and Georgian Kyle of the Driftwood Wildlife Association.

May 26: LBJ National Park monthly presentation – 7:00pm – Joe Haas, "The Beeman of Blanco County," will offer a program about these fascinating and beneficial insects. LBJ National Park Visitor Center, at the corner of Avenue G and Ladybird Lane, two blocks south of U.S. Highway 290 (Main Street) in Johnson City. For further information or specific driving directions, please call (830) 868-7128, extension 244.

May 29: Native Plant Society of Texas, Fredericksburg chapter - potluck dinner, 5:00pm. For location, e-mail fredericksburg@npsot.org.

June 7: Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville chapter – 2:00 pm at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville – Barbara Lowenthal presentation on *Creating a Virtual Herbarium*

June 7: Native Plant Society of Texas, Boerne chapter – 7:00pm, Cibolo Nature Center. Topic: *Show and Tell* – photos of outstanding plants presented by members

June 9: Riverside Nature Center Brown Bag Lunch and Learn – 12:00 noon – 1:00pm – *Amphibians of the Hill Country*, Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville

Answers to Bird Name Quiz: 1g 2o 3e 4a 5j 6n 7h 8m 9l 10b 11d 12c 13f 14i 15k

Please send newsletter contributions and comments to Phyllis Muska at pmuska@omniglobal.net.



Texas Star

Lindheimeria texana