

# THE TEXAS STAR

**SEPTEMBER 2005** VOL. 3, NO. 9



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Our September program will be a *SKYWARN PUBLIC WEATHER SAFETY PRESENTATION* by **Larry Eblen**, a meteorologist and National Weather Service (NWS) forecaster.

Larry Eblen was born in Amarillo and grew up in central Kentucky. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Mathematics from the University of Kentucky in the late 1960s, then served on active duty in the Air Force for five years, including graduate and undergraduate studies in Meteorology at Texas A&M. After discharge from the Air Force, he worked for 3 years as an Air Force civilian forecaster before transferring to the National Weather Service in 1977. He served as an NWS forecaster and administrator in the areas of agricultural, aviation, air pollution, marine, fire weather, and warning and outreach programs at Lubbock, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and New Braunfels.

In 1988 Eblen received the American Meteorological Society's Outstanding Forecast Award. In 1998 he was awarded a Department of Commerce Bronze Medal.

He has served as a guest lecturer at several universities, including Texas A&M, Texas Tech University, the University of Texas, Texas State University and Wayland Baptist University. He is the author of numerous NWS and Air Force severe weather forecasting and weather safety articles, computer programs, slide presentations and videos. His associations include serving as secretary of the Capitol Area Emergency Manager's Association of Texas, member and past president of the South Central Emergency Manager's Association of Texas, and vice chairman of the Texas Emergency Alert System Steering Committee, and the Texas Public Service Safety Association.

Eblen's wife Herlinda is a school teacher, and they have a son, David, and a daughter, Jennifer.

Eblen's presentation will cover topics such as the nature of severe weather, characteristics of severe thunderstorms, visual clues to severe and supercell thunderstorms, severe weather spotting problems, associated weather threats and safety, and flash flooding and flooding in South Central Texas.

The meeting will be held at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville, on September 26 at 7:00pm, with a social beginning at 6:30pm. We hope that you can join us.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*BY JIM STANLEY*

As this is written, we have already had the first training day for our Class of 2005. We have 36 bright, eager,

interesting and interested folks who will make a great addition to our Chapter. We welcome them and look forward to getting to know them all.

We have scheduled three advanced training classes for this fall, open to all Hill Country Chapter members, including new class members. They are all plant identification classes, taught by Chapter members, and we hope this is just the beginning of such activities. They are all to be held at the Texas Lions camp on Route 27, beginning at 1:00pm and lasting until at least 4:00pm.

The schedule is as follows:

**FORB IDENTIFICATION**, October 5. Taught by **Scott and Sandra Magee**.

**WOODY PLANT IDENTIFICATION**, October 12. Taught by **Jim and Priscilla Stanley**.

**GRASS IDENTIFICATION**, November 2. Taught by **Jim Stanley**.

If you would like to come to any or all of these classes, please e-mail me at [jstmn@kctc.com](mailto:jstmn@kctc.com), so we will know how many to expect at each class.

## BAMBERGER RANCH AND NATIVE AMERICAN SEED DONATIONS

Our Fall 2005 class has begun, and the list of guest lecturers is impressive. We always like to acknowledge the time and effort these speakers put into their presentations for our chapter, and this year we have a few nice extras to include in their 'goody' bags.

**David and Margaret Bamberger** of Selah/Bamberger Ranch Preserve have contributed gift certificates for guest tours of their exemplary ranch and preserve near Johnson City. Any of you who have had occasion to take a class or a tour at Selah know what a special treat this will be for our presenters! (See our [Calendar](#) section for several upcoming classes at Selah and a link to their web site.)

And **Native American Seed** of Junction has contributed packets of native seed to include as gifts for our speakers. We are fortunate to have this enterprise in our area, as they specialize in plants that are native to this region. Native American Seed has done much to educate the public about the benefits of using natives rather than exotics in the landscape. See their wide selection of offerings at [www.seedsources.com](http://www.seedsources.com).

Thanks from all of us to these donors – we all appreciate the support!

## NATURE WRITERS OF TEXAS

A web site featuring the archived works of a number of Texas authors, including our chapter's good friend **Bill Lindemann**, is now online. Check it out at <http://texasnature.blogspot.com>. Over a dozen authors have contributed on topics ranging from birds to butterflies to native plants, snow to hurricanes, millipedes to skunks and bats.

The site, including all of the archives, is in blog format. Each author's articles will be posted as received and archived for future reference. If you are a publishing author on the wildlife of Texas, or know one who is not represented here, please contact Tony Gallucci at [hurricanetg@hotmail.com](mailto:hurricanetg@hotmail.com). Submissions can be made to [swallowtailedkite@hotmail.com](mailto:swallowtailedkite@hotmail.com). Author's guidelines can be found at <http://texasnature.blogspot.com/2003/03/original-authors-statement-and.html>.

## COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS EXPIRE

Many of our guests have been receiving complimentary subscriptions to our newsletter to help them learn more about the activities of our Chapter. As of October, these complimentary subscriptions will end unless we receive a request to continue – in which case we would be happy to do so. If you are not a member of the Chapter but wish to continue receiving our newsletter, please contact our Director of Membership, Priscilla Stanley, at [jpbstan@kctc.com](mailto:jpbstan@kctc.com).

A couple of reminders:

- Watch in late spring for announcements of application period dates for the 2006 fall training class. This information will be in area newspapers and at our website at [www.hillcountrymasternaturalist.org](http://www.hillcountrymasternaturalist.org).
- Guests are welcome to attend Chapter meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at Riverside Nature Center.

## MASTER NATURALIST MILESTONES/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/KUDOS

**John and Barbara Quinby** have re-certified for 2005 by completing 40 hours of approved volunteer service and 8 hours of approved advanced training this year. They will receive their Blue Kingfisher pins at our September meeting.

**Nancy Vaughan** has reached her 250-hour milestone – 250 cumulative volunteer hours since she became a Master Naturalist in the Class of 2003. She will receive her Bronze Dragonfly at the State TMN meeting in October.

Thanks to **Edna and Howard Platte** and **Maggie Tatum** for bringing refreshments to our August meeting. **Betty Gardner** and **Kim Whitaker** are providing refreshments for the September meeting.



## CALENDAR

**September 14-16: Fire as a Tool for Managing Wildlife Habitat in Texas** – symposium at YO Ranch Hotel, Kerrville. For more information, see <http://texnat.tamu.edu> or contact **Dr. Dale Rollins**, [drollins@tamu.edu](mailto:drollins@tamu.edu), 325 653 4576. **AT hours available.**

**September 15: Madrona Garden Club** – Noon at Pipe Creek Presbyterian Church. Bring an item of food (and recipe!) made with squash or tomatoes, to share for lunch. Contact **Sherlie Vangnes** at 830 796 8209 for more information.

**September 15 and Saturday, September 17: Managing for Wildlife in an Urban Island** – Texas Wildlife Association 6th Annual Farm and Range Forum, Palo Alto College, San Antonio (Thursday); and Mitchell Lake Audubon Center (Saturday). Various presentations on plants, birds, ag valuation, water, fire and conservation. Registration Thursday 5:30pm – 9pm, Saturday 9am – noon. Cost: \$25 both days, \$15 one day. 210 826 2904 or [h\\_holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:h_holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org) for details.

**September 17: Hill Country Archeological Association monthly meeting** – 1:00pm, Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville. **Jennifer Thompson** from the Center for Archeological Research, University of Texas at San Antonio, will discuss findings from a TXDOT excavation site in Junction. Meetings are free and visitors are welcome.

**September 19–20: Plant ID and range management class** – 6:30–8:30pm, Fredericksburg High School, Room 236. Sponsored by the Gillespie Soil and Water Conservation District. \$29 registration. 830 997 7182 to register.

**September 21: Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter board meeting** – 2:00pm at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville – chapter members may attend.

**September 22: LBJ National Park monthly presentation** – 7:00pm – Exploration of dendrochronology (the dating of wood to determine a building's age and order of construction). 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, call 830 868 7128, X244.

**September 23: Land Steward Ranch Tour and Barbeque Lunch** – 8:00am. Holistic Resource Management of Texas sponsors a day of learning about sustainable agriculture at the Treadwell Brady Ranch, as part of the Renewable Energy Roundup and Green Living Fair in Fredericksburg September 23-25. \$35 per person or \$60 per couple, including catered barbeque lunch. See [www.TheROUNDUP.org](http://www.TheROUNDUP.org) for more information on the Fair. To pre-register for the ranch tour, contact **Peggy Cole** by September 18 at 512 847 3822 or [pcole@hrm-texas.org](mailto:pcole@hrm-texas.org).

**September 24: Land Stewardship Workshop** – 8:30am–4:30pm, Selah/Bamberger Ranch Preserve. \$100 per person, 25% discount for certified Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners. Details at [www.bambergeranch.org](http://www.bambergeranch.org). Contact **Colleen Gardner** at 830 868 2630 or [brp@tstar.net](mailto:brp@tstar.net) for more information or to register.

**September 24: Gardens by Moonlight** – 7pm–11pm, San Antonio Botanic Garden, 555 Funston Street, San Antonio (Sept 26 rain date). Food, music, star gazing. Admission fee \$6 adults, \$4 senior, \$3 children. 210 207 3250 for more information.

**September 24: Butterfly Gardening Nature's Way** – 9:00am–noon, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin. \$30 members, \$35 non-members. See [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) for more information.

**September 26: Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter monthly meeting** – 6:30pm, Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville. (*See above for details.*)

**September 27: Fredericksburg Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas monthly meeting** – 7:00pm, Gillespie County Historical Society building, 312 W San Antonio Street, Fredericksburg. Program on *Preventing and Treating Oak Wilt* by **Buzz White** and **Chuck Hollis**.

**September 30–October 1: Texas Association for Environmental Education and the Texas Earth Science Teachers Association Conference** – Prude Ranch, Fort Davis. Conference fee of \$150 includes workshops, meals and field trips. For more information, contact **Tracy Hollis**, [tracy.hollis@gpisd.org](mailto:tracy.hollis@gpisd.org), 972 264 8729.

**October 1: Down By the Riverside** – 7:30am–3:00pm. Nature Fair & Mostly Native Tree & Plant Sale sponsored by *Riverside Nature Center & Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter*. Volunteer opportunities available. Contact **Priscilla Stanley** [jpbstan@kctc.com](mailto:jpbstan@kctc.com) for details.

**October 1: J. David Bamberger on Bat Cave Ecosystems** – 4:00pm–5:00pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin. Free with admission. See [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) for more information

**October 1–2: Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo** – 9:00am–5:00pm, Texas Parks & Wildlife Headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road in southeast Austin. **Volunteer hours available under Project ID HC-02-A.** Contact [mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us) for information on volunteer opportunities or see <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/exptexas/promos/expo/> for details on the Expo.

**October 4: Kerrville Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas** – 2:00pm. Field trip to Willie McDaniel's Elm Cottage B&B. Members of the NPSOT and their guests are invited. For more information contact **Edna Platte** at 830 257 2185.

**October 4: Boerne Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas** – 7:00pm, Cibolo Nature Center, Highway 46 east of Boerne. **Dr. Steve Nelle** of NRCS will discuss Hill Country grasses.

**October 6: Capturing the Moment: Photography of the Butterfly Life Cycle** – 12:00 noon–1:00pm,

Lunch and Learn Series, Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville.

**October 7–9: Fall Plant Sale and Gardening Festival** – Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin. Members preview sale October 7, 1:00pm – 7:00pm. Public sale October 8 and 9, 9:00am–5:00pm. See [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) for more information.

**October 8: Bandera County Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas** – 2:00pm, Medina Community Library Meeting Room. Contact **Susan Tracy** at 830 589 7124 for details.

**October 8: Native Texas Grasses Workshop** – 8:30am–4:30pm, Selah/Bamberger Ranch Preserve. \$100 per person, 25% discount for certified Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners. Details at [www.bambergeranch.org](http://www.bambergeranch.org). Contact **Colleen Gardner** at 830 868 2630 or [brp@tstar.net](mailto:brp@tstar.net) for more information or to register.

**October 15: The Amazing Life of Bats** – 5:00pm–6:00pm, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin. Presentation by **Dr. Merlin Tuttle**, founder and president of Bat Conservation International. See [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) for more information.

**October 20–23: NPSOT Fall Symposium and Annual Meeting** – Alpine and Fort Davis.

**October 21–23: Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting** – Statewide meeting & advanced training, Mo Ranch, Hunt. See <http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu/pdf/2005reg.pdf> for program and registration information. Early discounted registration deadline September 24, with registration being accepted on-line, by mail or fax. Late registration available on-line September 25 – October 5 only. Final Registration Deadline: Wednesday, October 5, 2005. *No on-site registration.*

Please send newsletter contributions and comments to Phyllis Muska at [pmuska@omniglobal.net](mailto:pmuska@omniglobal.net).



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*Lindheimeria texana*