

THE TEXAS STAR

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Hill Country Chapter

January Program

Note change from usual location for this month's meeting - see last paragraph!

Our January program will be a presentation on Texas water issues - Managing Land for Healthy Watersheds and Clean Rivers - by David K. Langford. Langford will discuss the connection between good water and proper land stewardship.

Texans feel a kinship to the land, and our lives and livelihoods are shaped by the diverse landscape that characterizes our home. However, as more people have moved to cities and suburbs, the direct, physical ties to the land and nature's cycles have been severed. As a result, fewer people understand the dynamic between well-managed land and plentiful, clean water. When conscientious land stewards ably manage their resources, they are ranching water just as surely as they are ranching cattle or wildlife. Unfortunately, this contribution is often overlooked or misunderstood. Langford will discuss the role of land stewards as one of the cornerstone solutions for water issues in Texas.

Langford comes from a seven-generation ranching family in Kendall County and he has a strong connection to resource conservation. He was Executive Vice President of the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) from 1990 until his retirement in 2002 and currently serves as Vice President Emeritus. TWA is a statewide organization devoted to the perpetuation of wildlife, wildlife management, water for wildlife, hunting, and private property rights.

Langford has also served on several advisory committees, including the Agricultural Resources Protection Authority and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Hunting Advisory Committee. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of TPWD's Education and Outreach Advisory Committee. He is also on the National Advisory Board of Texas Wild!

In 2004, Langford received the Harvey Weil Professional Conservationist Award. He has degrees from both Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin. He is married to Myrna, who has been an active member of the Hill Country Master Naturalist chapter since its inception in 2002. They have a son, a daughter, and two grandchildren.

This meeting will be held on **Monday, January 23, at 7:00pm** at the [UGRA Offices on 125 Lehmann Dr., Kerrville](#) with our social beginning at 6:30pm. We hope that you can join us.

President's Message by Jim Stanley

Happy New Year, y'all! 2005 was a year of accomplishments for our chapter:

- We started the year with about 70 members and ended with about 100, after training our largest class ever!
- In fall of 2004, we completed training for our Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP), and the LMAP program started off in March 2005. By year's end we had visited 54 properties covering a total of 4,150 acres. These visits also generated over 400 volunteer hours and over 100 advanced training (AT) hours for our members. For additional information on LMAP, see the section on Advanced Training opportunities below.
- For the first time in our chapter history, we held our own AT sessions - as opposed to attending events held by other organizations - with an average of 30 people attending each of the wildflower, tree and grass ID classes held last fall.
- The board also began a program of reviewing the presentations made at our monthly meetings for AT qualification, and two of the four presentations held thereafter were given AT status.
- In 2005, ten new volunteer projects were approved, so that even with some consolidation of related projects, we now have 38 approved volunteer projects. All of the numbers aren't in yet, but we expect that in addition to LMAP the other big volunteer projects will be Riverside, Cibolo, and the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area.

2005 may be a hard act to follow, but we are going to try. We already have plans for more AT events and for expanding our corps of LMAP trainees. As always, we want to hear any ideas you have to make our chapter even better.

2006 Board Elected

At the chapter's November meeting, board members for the new year were elected. Officers are:

- President - Jim Stanley
- Vice-President - Bob Richie
- Secretary - Kathryn Harrison
- Treasurer - Marilyn Murrmann

Additional board members include:

- Director, Advanced Training - Jane Crone
- Director, Class Training - Betty Gardner
- Director, Volunteer Projects - Ron Hood
- 2005 Class Representative - Susan Longacre

- Director, Communications - Phyllis Muska
- Past President - Sandy Peña
- Director, Membership - Priscilla Stanley.

Thanks to outgoing board members Sharon Corley, Wanda Mattarocci, Betty Thomas and Nancy Vaughan for their dedication and service over the last year!

Paper or Plastic?

How are your recycling habits? Need a New Year's resolution? As an incentive, consider what Americans toss into the garbage in just one year:

- 5,190,000 tons of glass beer and soda bottles
- 4,200,000 tons of plastic wrap and bags
- 3,650,000 tons of junk mail
- 3,160,000 tons of office paper
- 2,230,000 tons of newspapers
- 1,520,000 tons of magazines
- 1,170,000 tons of wine and liquor bottles
- 830,000 tons of aluminum beer and soda cans
- 540,000 tons of telephone directories

And those are just the items which could be recycled fairly easily! In addition, we throw away almost 60,000,000 tons of food, furniture and furnishings, clothing and footwear, diapers, tires, carpets and rugs, appliances, paper plates and cups, books, towels, sheets and pillowcases, milk cartons, and lead-acid car batteries.

In our four-county area, we have a number of recycling centers, as well as curbside pickup service in some towns. Some of the centers are fairly limited operations, while those in Kerrville and Fredericksburg keep convenient hours and accept a wide assortment of items.

- Bandera - call 830 796 7524 for hours and details
- Fredericksburg - corner of Ufer and Lincoln - 830 997 3459; accepts paper, plastic, aluminum, metal, glass
- Kendall County - county dump; accepts newspaper, #1 and #2 plastic, aluminum
- Kerrville - corner of Hays & McFarland (near HEB) - 830 257 1267

In addition to the usual newspaper, magazines, mixed paper, cardboard, glass, and plastic, the Community Recycling Center in Kerrville will take such unusual items as telephones, scrap metal and fencing, Styrofoam, electronics, and ink/toner cartridges.

- Medina - trash dump facility - small recycling trailer for collection of glass, plastic, aluminum, and tin cans

Other options -

- Many mail centers such as Mail and More will accept and reuse packing materials such as bubble wrap and Styrofoam peanuts.
- Alkaline batteries can be dropped off at stores which sell a lot of batteries and electronic equipment, such as Radio Shack.
- You can take your old ink and toner cartridges to OfficeMax, where your good habits will be rewarded with a free ream of (recycled, of course) paper.

And, perhaps the best option is to cut down on the amount of material you use in the first place:

- Contact the Direct Marketing Association <http://www.dmaconsumers.org/consumerassistance.html> to eliminate unwanted junk mail and catalogs. You will still receive catalogs from those organizations you have patronized in the past, but you can call them directly and ask to have your name removed from their lists, or to have fewer catalogs sent - maybe one a quarter instead of one or two a month.
- Note that in the list above, we throw away tons of junk mail, but even more plastic sacks and wrap! Instead of paper or plastic, how about neither? Remember to bring your own tote bags to the store to sack your purchases.

Finally, don't forget to complete the cycle by purchasing recycled products.

- Recycled aluminum is melted down to create new aluminum items, requiring only 1/7 as much energy to process as virgin material.
- Plastic bottles, glass containers, and wastepaper are radically transformed into new products such as roads, carpets, bike parts, clothing, and even jewelry and art.
- Old phone books and office paper are turned into household paper goods such as paper towels and toilet paper - look for a high post consumer content, meaning the product is made from actual recycled materials, rather than just scraps from the manufacturing process.

Training and Volunteer Opportunities

LMAP Training for 2006

The Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP) is a project begun last year by our chapter where trained volunteers visit a homeowner's property to help them identify plants and discuss various land management issues, all with the goal of making the owners better land stewards. Those volunteers currently doing this work took 36 hours of advanced training (both classroom and field work) in the fall of 2004, the instructors all being experts from various government agencies. Then in 2005, we held several "practice" sessions on Chapter members' properties.

The program has been highly successful and very rewarding, and we need more volunteers so that we can expand the program. This time, however, instead of an intensive training course, we are going to try something different. We are going to have a series of **AT events** during the first half of 2006 which will

provide the training for "apprentice" LMAP volunteers who will then be qualified to accompany current LMAP volunteers on site visits with the idea of eventually becoming LMAP volunteers themselves.

The **AT events** that will constitute the training for LMAP Apprentices are:

1* - A two-hour discussion of oak wilt and tree planting to be presented by Robert Edmonson of the Texas Forest Service in the Fredericksburg Ag Extension Office at 1:00pm on Monday, February 20. Chapter members only!

2 - An (approximately) four-hour discussion on "Introduction to LMAP 101", led by Jim Stanley to be held sometime in mid- to late March.

3, 4, and 5* - Classes on identifying spring wildflowers, trees/shrubs and grasses to be held in April and May, as follow-up for the three AT classes held last October and November.

6 - "Practice" LMAP site visits to some of our own properties.

In addition to the above, there will almost certainly be other AT events sponsored by other organizations that will be useful for LMAP training. Details and reminders will be sent out at appropriate times. If you are interested in the LMAP "Apprentice" program, please let Jim Stanley know so he can plan for the appropriate number.

* Please note that Robert Edmonson's presentation and the plant ID classes are open to all chapter members, not just those who are interested in becoming LMAP volunteers.

The Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area

Amy Sugeno, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) manager at Old Tunnel (OT) Wildlife Management Area and our chapter advisor, has announced the annual training for Old Tunnel volunteers, to be held April 8-9 at Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Whether you've never volunteered at Old Tunnel before or you are a seasoned volunteer, there will be fun and learning for all. Highlights include presentations on bats of Texas by TPWD bat biologist Meg Goodman and history of Old Tunnel by historian Lester Haines, mist-netting for migratory bats, a special youth training session and more.

This training is for Master Naturalist members and others who wish to volunteer during the year at Old Tunnel. The training has been approved for **AT hours** as part of the volunteer project (**Project ID KL-03-A**). Bat season usually runs April through November, and responsibilities of volunteers may include educating the public about the bats and general Hill Country natural resources, ongoing research, maintenance of the area, and more. Public outreach numbers, depending on the time of year, can be from ten to over 100 on any given night during the season. Time commitment varies - once a week or less, whatever works for you.

* * *

A new research project at Old Tunnel involves water quality monitoring of the spring water which flows through the tunnel. The Texas Watch program has invited OT to participate in a scheduled training on

Saturday February 18 at Landa Park in New Braunfels. During this all day session, instructors will teach how to use a test kit to collect water samples, measure physical and chemical parameters, and manage water quality data. We need to know if any of you would be interested in the project and able to attend this training.

The frequency of the water monitoring to be done at Old Tunnel by each team member will depend somewhat on the number participating. Samples are usually collected once a month for at least one year. For further information about the Texas Watch program, see www.texaswatch.geo.txstate.edu.

* * *

Last year there were over a dozen Hill Country Master Naturalist members who volunteered in some capacity at OT, and a few members from other area chapters. It's been great fun and is extremely worthwhile. If any of you would like to be involved or have any questions, please contact Myrna Langford mfl@omniglobal.net, Amy Sugeno Amy.Sugeno@tpwd.state.tx.us, or Nyta Brown Hensley nytahensley@hctc.net.

Kerrville-Schreiner Park

The butterfly garden at Kerrville-Schreiner Park in Kerrville is in need of a major pruning. Master Naturalist volunteers will meet on February 16 for this one-day cleanup to get the garden ready for spring. A group also meets weekly throughout the spring and summer for regular maintenance of this beautifully evolving area. The entrance fee is waived for workers. Please bring clippers, loppers and water. If interested let Barbara Lowenthal at beltex@kctc.com know. She will send a reminder. **Project ID KR-01-A**

Cibolo Nature Center

The Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne offers an educational program for student groups (public, private, home school). The outdoor classroom program is dependent upon volunteers who commit to working monthly or weekly for a few hours in the morning during the school week. Training will be held in February and September for anyone interested in serving in this program.

During the fall and spring semesters school groups visit the Cibolo Nature Center through the outdoor education program. Some of these programs are water bug collection, nature drawing and writing, team building games, environmental plays, plant and animal habitat identification, and earth cycle patterns. If you are interested in helping with this environmental educational program, please come to a one-day training session to learn more about the outdoor classroom. The training will be held on Wednesday, February 15, from 8:30am to 3:30pm, at the Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Call 830 249 4616 or e-mail nature@cibolo.org for more information or to register.

Texas Master Naturalist List-serve

The TMN List-serve provides an excellent means of learning about volunteer projects, advanced training and general natural resource and conservation information. The List-serve gives members the opportunity to keep up with state program news and updates, and allows communication with other members across the state.

To subscribe, visit <http://taex001.tamu.edu/mailman/listinfo/tmn>.

Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos

In December, Kip Kiphart attended a Monarch Butterfly Symposium at Cal Poly State in San Luis, California, along with other Texas citizen scientists. Kip, director of the Cibolo Nature Center's monarch larva monitoring project, was recognized as leader of the longest-running and most consistent monarch larva monitoring team in the United States. He and his team have monitored the perennial milkweed patch at the Cibolo Nature Center for four years. From March through October, they check the plants weekly for monarch eggs and larvae.

John Rogers was recognized in the Kerrville Daily Times for his efforts in the Medina Community Library garden.

Fourteen members of the Class of 2004 certified as Master Naturalists during the past year. And 23 members from earlier classes recertified in 2005. Thirteen members qualified for the special first-year recertification, new in 2005. Our chapter also had a number of members recognized for various milestones last year:

- Fourteen reached the 250-hour mark and received bronze dragonflies.
- Four reached the 500-hour milestone and were rewarded with silver dragonflies.
- Three of our members - Angelo Falzarano, Jim Stanley, and Priscilla Stanley - reached the lofty 1000-hour mark and received gold dragonflies for their dedication!

Good work!

Calendar

Free entry to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin - entire month of January!
www.wildflower.org

January 18: Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter board meeting - 2:00pm at [Riverside Nature Center](#), 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville - chapter members may attend.

January 23: Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter monthly meeting - 6:30pm, UGRA offices, [UGRA on 125 Lehmann Dr., Kerrville, TX](#) (See above for details. Note change from usual location!)

January 28: Hill Country Archeological Association - bimonthly meeting. 1:00pm at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St, Kerrville. Cynthia Munoz, assistant laboratory director for the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at UTSA, will discuss dental analysis of Native American cemetery populations of the Texas coastal plain.

January 31: Fredericksburg Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas monthly meeting - 7:00pm, Gillespie

County Historical Society building, 312 W San Antonio Street, Fredericksburg. Sue Tracy of Bandera will speak on Ferns of Texas.

February 7: Boerne Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas monthly meeting - 7:00pm, Cibolo Nature Center, [Highway 46 east of Boerne](#).

February 7: Kerrville Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas monthly meeting - 2:00pm, Riverside Nature Center, [150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville](#).

February 10-11: NPSOT Symposium presentations - Repeat of presentations from the October State Conference at Big Bend. Fellowship Hall, Methodist Church, Fort Davis. For registration information, e-mail symposium@npsot.org. \$10 covers presentations and Saturday catered lunch. **AT hours available.**

February 11: Cibolo Nature Center Second Saturday Nature Walk - 9:30am, Cibolo Nature Center, [Highway 46 east of Boerne](#). Join CNC founder Carolyn Chipman Evans on an interpretive walk through the park.

February 11: Soils and Plant Communities of the Hill Country - 9:00am-12:00pm, Cibolo Nature Center, [Highway 46 east of Boerne](#). Presentation by Steve Nelle of NRCS & Bill Ward of NPSOT.

February 14: Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center - 7:00pm, [Gillespie County Ag Extension Offices](#), 95 Frederick Road, Fredericksburg. Presentation on Everything You Want to Know about Purple Martins by Louise Chambers, outreach and education director for the Purple Martin Conservation Association. For more information, contact Jane Crone at 830 669 2639.

February 15: Cibolo Nature Center Training for Outdoor Classroom - 8:30am to 3:30pm, Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, [Highway 46 east of Boerne](#) Call 830 249 4616 or e-mail nature@cibolo.org for more information or to register. **AT hours available.** (See above for details.)

February 16,: Kerrville-Schreiner Park Butterfly Garden - 8:30am. Annual pruning and cleanup. Entrance fee is waived for workers. Bring clippers, loppers and water. Contact Barbara Lowenthal at beltex@ktc.com.

February 18: Texas Watch Water Monitor Training - Landa Park, New Braunfels. Preparation for new research project at Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area. (See above for details.)

February 20: [Oak Wilt and Tree Planting Class](#) - 1:00pm, [Gillespie County Ag Extension Building](#), 95 Frederick Road (at N Llano/Highway 16N), Fredericksburg. A two-hour discussion of oak wilt and tree planting to be presented by Robert Edmonson of the Texas Forest Service in the Fredericksburg Ag Extension Office. Chapter members only. **AT hours available.**

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

