



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

THE TEXAS STAR

AUGUST PROGRAM

Our August meeting will give us a chance to meet the incoming class of 2006. The meeting will serve as an orientation for new class members, who will be introduced to the group by their mentors.

This meeting will begin with social time at 6:30pm on **Monday, August 28** at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville. We hope that you can join us in welcoming this outstanding group!

See Priscilla Stanley's article below for details on our new class members.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JIM STANLEY

Our new Class of 2006 is now full and everyone is eager to begin classes, with the first meeting on the evening of August 28. The new class Curriculum Committee has done a great job of organizing everything and getting excellent speakers. For anyone who is still missing a class from their original training, check the class schedule on our chapter web site, www.hillcountrymasternaturalist.org, or contact **Cathy Downs** to find out when you can make up your missed class.

Save the date of October 14, when our chapter will again partner with Riverside Nature Center to hold a native plant sale. Not only will this be a great opportunity to obtain some native trees, shrubs and perennials, but we will be needing lots of volunteer help on that day and the days just before the sale. This will also give new class members one of their first opportunities to earn volunteer hours. More info later.

Although it is just August, the process of finding volunteers to serve on the Chapter Board of Directors will begin soon. As Past President, Sandy Peña will chair the Nominating Committee. Anyone who would like to serve on the next Board, or has suggestions for new Board members, or who would like to serve on the Nominating Committee, please contact Sandy at 634 2545 or sandy@penasco.net.

Thought for the day: *We are one day closer to the next big rain and to cooler weather than we were yesterday.*

LET'S WELCOME OUR CLASS OF 2006!

BY PRISCILLA STANLEY, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

We are pleased to have an exceptional class of 30 people with an interesting variety of life experiences. What they share are strong interests and experiences with nature in its many forms, and an impressive history of volunteering. This year, the first training session will be held as our chapter meeting on Monday, August 28. We encourage all of our members to attend to meet our new trainees at a reception beginning at 6:30pm. Mentors will introduce each trainee to the class and our chapter members.

Our class of 2006 has good geographic distribution among the counties our chapter serves, with six members from Bandera, seven from Gillespie, three from Kendall, thirteen from Kerr, and one from Real. Here's a bit of background information on our newest members before you meet them (and they meet each other).

From **Bandera County**: **Leanne Beauxbeannes** (pronounced *Lee Nee*) has seen a lot of Bandera County working as the 9-1-1 Rural Addressing person for ten years. She has a degree in Elementary Education and is forming a not-for-profit organization to develop hiking trails for adults and school children to teach them about Hill Country natural areas. **Anne Cassidy** works as a Medical Technologist and lives on her ranch which has Wildlife Management Tax Valuation. She is eager to learn more about Hill Country fauna and flora and to meet more people with similar interests. **Tina Cohorn** is a retired Office Administrator who moved from San Antonio to the country nearly 3 years ago. She is eager to learn more about all the wildlife she sees, both to teach her young daughter and to share this information with members of her community. **Gloria Costello** and her husband recently moved from Hollywood Park to 49 acres in Bandera. They have applied for Wildlife Management Tax Valuation for migrating and native breeding songbirds. **Jim Falbo** is a retired Contractor and Counselor who grew up in the San Antonio area before moving to Pipe Creek. He looks forward to learning more about Hill Country natural resources so he can help children better appreciate nature. **Kimberly Langlinais** is a busy lady working as a Registered Nurse in a Recovery Room, raising three children and completing her Master's degree. She and her family appreciate nature while hiking, fishing, kayaking and rappelling. **Neville Triplett** is employed as the Senior Environmental Coordinator for UGRA. As a biologist, he is interested in learning more about Hill Country resources so that he can better educate others.

From **Gillespie County**: **William Lange** is a retired electrical engineer who grew up on a ranch. He currently lives on a ranch and is interested in helping people improve their rangeland via better management techniques. **Annie Lange Rendon**, William's sister, is a retired receiving controller, with a life-long interest in the outdoors including all aspects of land stewardship. She is looking forward to helping young people learn more about wildlife and land management. **Patricia Perkison** is a retired elementary principal, who with her husband, recently moved here from Belton (near Killeen). She has had a life-long interest in native plants, conservation and environmental issues. **William Perkison** is a retired development officer. He has had an interest in preserving our natural environment that began from his childhood learning from his father. **Virginia Sawin** holds a PhD in Biology, is a former teacher and works as a consultant. Her home uses only water catchment and is landscaped with xeric native plants. **Mary Ellen Terrell** retired as a social worker and office manager for a medical group, but she still works part-time at a medical office and managing several properties. After moving from West Texas to a Hill Country Ranch, Mary Ellen wants to learn about the fauna, flora, soil etc. of the Hill Country so she can be a good land steward and share that information with others. **Walter Workman** is a retired lawyer who has become a professional volunteer, serving five organizations, including being a member of the Tierra Linda Volunteer Fire Department. He wants to share information on good land stewardship with others new to the Hill Country.

From **Kendall County**: **Norma Bruns** is a part-time insurance agent and former realtor who lives on a ranch in Comfort. She is interested in helping people learn good land management techniques. **Melinda Kilpatrick** is a retired elementary math and science teacher who has a large ranch in Kendall County as well as property in Houston. She is interested in learning more about the Hill Country fauna and flora so she can share this knowledge with adults and children. **Jennifer Woolvin-Allen** works as a substitute teacher in the NISD, and has lived on a farm for thirty years. She wants to share her love of the outdoors and nature and teach others a sense of wonder.

From **Kerr County**: **Priscilla Bailey** is a teacher who recently retired from KISD. She is looking forward to contributing to her community by sharing her appreciation of nature with children or youth. **Marguerite Belec** is a retired naval officer and a certified Master Gardener who seeks to broaden the scope of her efforts. She chairs the landscape committee for her Cypress Springs homeowners' association and wants to share information on eco-friendly, drought-tolerant landscaping with others. **Marysue Douville** works as a decorator and travel agent. As an avid gardener and wildlife enthusiast, she wants to learn more about the Hill Country plants and animals. **Colleen Everson** works in summer maintenance at a 55-acre non-profit camp for children with disabilities. She wants to learn more about the Hill Country plants, animals and ecosystems to be able to teach others. **Warren Ferguson** is a recently retired corporate officer whose career spanned several areas, including computers and software. He is interested in wildlife and land management, and nature educational activities for all ages. **Zella Hawkins** works as a Massage Therapist and Instructor who has always been interested in nature, animals and the environment. A former day care director and substitute teacher, she would like to work with children on nature education. **Lloyd Hemmert** works as an Information Security Administrator, after a twenty year career as an Air Force officer. Already a TPWD Hummingbird Roundup participant, he is also interested in the bats at the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area and community

education. **Marilyn Knight** works as a marriage and family therapist and spent eleven years as a missionary to Argentina. Already a Master Gardener, Marilyn is expanding her knowledge of Hill Country wildflowers by photographing them to make educational pages for the public. **Janet Meek** is a recently retired diplomat from the US State Department, who now has several occupations including investment manager, yoga teacher and organic gardener. As a Kerrville native, she would like to become more active in promoting appreciation of the Hill Country natural world. **Martha Miesch** is a recently retired teacher who lives on twenty acres of natural Hill Country land. She and her family enjoy walking their property, and Martha would like to learn more about all that she sees so she can share this information with both her family and school children. **Jack Millikan** is a retired manager from Chevron Oil Company who lived in Japan, Houston, and California before settling in the Hill Country. He is especially interested in native plants, reptiles and amphibians, and volunteers at Riverside Nature Center. **Karen Millikan** is a retired secretary who now volunteers as the reptile and amphibian educator at Riverside Nature Center, where she displays her California King Snake and gives presentations. As a native Texan, Karen wants to encourage reverence, respect and responsibility for the natural world and its inhabitants. **Charles Smith** is a retired USAF Investigator and Instructor who has had a life-long appreciation for nature and an abhorrence of mankind's disrespect of it. His experience in public speaking and teaching will help him share information on the beneficial management of natural resources with the public.

We are all looking forward to meeting our class of 2006 trainees at their first class on August 28 at 6:30pm at Riverside Nature Center.

A PAGE FROM THE HERBARIUM

THIS MONTH'S PLANT:

BLACK DALEA

Scientific Name – *Dalea frutescens*

Family – *Fabaceae* (Legume Family)

BY JULIA CAMPBELL

Black dalea is covered with purple and white blooms in late summer which the honeybees and I just love. The plant usually grows to about 2' by 3' and is a rounded, thorn

less perennial shrub. It is extremely drought tolerant and prefers dry, limestone soil in full sun. It is non-invasive and is a good landscape plant. It blooms during the hottest period of summer when gardens need that bit of color. The blossoms are ½" terminal spikes. The leaves of black dalea are pinnately compound ¼- 1" long, with 9-17 leaflets. Each leaflet is about 1/8" long. The aromatic glands on the leaves of some species make them less palatable to deer.



Dalea frutescens

Photographed by Joseph A. Marcus

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Native Plant Information Network Image Gallery

Several black dalea plants are located at the Riverside Nature Center. There are other attractive dalea species in the legume family, such as Purple dalea (*Dalea lasiathera*), Feather dalea (*Dalea formosa*), Silver dalea (*Dalea argyrea*) and Gregg's dalea (*Dalea greggii*).

Julia Campbell is a retired registered dietitian. She moved to the Hill Country in 1991.

She is past president of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter, a Master Naturalist and a longtime dedicated volunteer at the Riverside Nature Center.

The Texas Hill Country Virtual Herbarium is a project dedicated to creating a photographic database to be used for identification of plants native to the Texas Hill Country area.

For more information, contact [Barbara Lowenthal](#).

IMAGES FOR CONSERVATION NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY RESULTS

Myrna and **David Langford**'s Block Creek Natural Area participated in the Images for Conservation Fund's Pro-Tour of nature photography in April. The Pro-Tour promotes nature photography as a way of generating revenue without destroying natural resources. The book to be out this fall will have great images from the Hill Country, and will be a testament that conservation equals habitat equals diversity of wildlife species.

To see the photos, here's the website for the entire Texas Hill Country Pro-Tour:

<http://www.imagesforconservation.org/gallery/index.php>, and you can view photography by Leo Keeler on Myrna and David's place at <http://www.akwildlife.com/ProTour/>.

MASTER NATURALIST MILESTONES/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/KUDOS

Nyta Hensley has been named by Texas Parks & Wildlife as manager of Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area. With Nyta's dedication and extensive experience at the bat tunnel, we look forward to a smooth transition.

Stephen Dodge and **Nina Wagner** of our Class of 2005 have achieved certification as Texas Master Naturalists by completing forty hours of volunteer service and eight hours of advanced training within a 15-month period. They will receive their certificates and their dragonfly pins at our meeting. The dragonfly is the logo of the Texas Master Naturalist program.

Adele Junkin of our Class of 2004 has earned her bronze dragonfly for 250 hours of cumulative volunteer service.

Since January 1, 2006, our members have contributed 4,490 volunteer hours to their communities. These volunteer hours have a value of \$81,000, based on the 2006 value of \$18.04/hour for volunteer work. These activities are as diverse as our membership, ranging from teaching children about nature, to tending native plant demonstration or butterfly gardens, or Citizen Science projects such as keeping a census of hummingbirds for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Our members have also attended 677 hours of advanced training in 2006. Popular classes this month were on learning to identify and survey invasive plants, and prairie restoration.

Congratulations to all our chapter's achievers this month!

CALENDAR

August 15: Kerr Cactus and Succulent Society – 7:00pm, Butt-Holdsworth Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville.

August 17: White-Tailed Deer Seminar – 4:30pm, Gillespie County Farm Bureau Building, 237 Equestrian Drive, Fredericksburg. Seminar sponsored by the Gillespie Farm Bureau and Texas Cooperative Extension. For further information or to register, call 830 997 4396 or 830 997 3452.

August 17: Rainwater Harvesting – 7:00pm, Lyndon B. Johnson Historical Park Visitor Center, Avenue G and Ladybird Lane, Johnson City. **Mike McElveen** will speak on rainwater catchment systems for home or business. For further information, call 830 868 7128 X244.

August 18–20: Riparian Essentials Workshop – 8:30am, Heart of the Hills Conference Center, Hunt. Sponsored by Texas Riparian Association in conjunction with the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration Conference August 18-20. For more information, see <http://www.texasriparian.org> or contact Kevin Anderson at 512 972 1960. **AT hours available.**

August 23: Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter board meeting – 2:00pm at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville. Chapter members may attend.

August 28: Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter monthly meeting – 6:30pm, Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos, Kerrville. **See above for details.**

August 29: Native Plant Society of Texas, Fredericksburg Chapter – 7:00pm, Gillespie County Historical Society Building, 312 W San Antonio Street, Fredericksburg. Presentation on *Big Red Sage* by **Bill Ward** of NPSOT – Boerne Chapter.

September 5: Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter – 2:00pm, Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos, Kerrville. **Jackie Poole**, Senior Botanist with the Wildlife Diversity Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife, will discuss rare plants of the Texas Hill Country.

September 5: Native Plant Society of Texas, Boerne Chapter – 7:00pm, Cibolo Nature Center, Boerne. Presentation by **Carl Green** on *Shade Gardening with Native Plants*. Green is Office Manager and Naturalist for Texas Parks & Wildlife at Government Canyon State Natural Area in San Antonio.

September 7: Riverside Nature Center Brown Bag Lunch Series – Noon–1:00pm. Presentation on *Seeds: The Fruit of the Matter* by **Barbara Lowenthal & Linda Rinier**. Bring a sack lunch. Cost is \$3 for non-members of RNC, free to members, and includes beverages & dessert.

September 8: Range & Habitat Seminar – 1:30-5pm, Kerr Wildlife Management Area. An ecosystems approach with topics including white-tailed deer management, grazing management, prescribed burning and brush control. Reservations required. Call 830 238 4483 for more information or to register.

September 16: Wildscapes Gardening Workshop – 9:00am–3:00pm. Hosted by Native Plant Society of Texas, Fredericksburg Chapter. Presentations by **Kelly Bender, John Dromgoole, Elizabeth Drozda-Freeman**, and other gardening and wildscaping experts. Cost \$25 for NPSOT members, non-members \$30 (box lunch & drinks included). Gillespie County Historical Society Building, 312 W San Antonio Street, Fredericksburg. **AT hours available.**

Newsletter contributions and comments to Phyllis Muska at pmuska@omniglobal.net.

