

THE TEXAS STAR

JANUARY 2008 **Vol. 6 No 1**

T E X A S



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Chapter Website: <http://www.hillcountrymasternaturalist.org>



JANUARY PROGRAM

Dr. Damon Waitt is the featured speaker this month. His presentation, "A Tribute to Lady Bird," will recount his personal experiences botanizing with Lady Bird Johnson.

The meeting will be held at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville, Monday, January 28, 2008 at 7 pm.

Dr. Waitt holds a PH.D. in botany from the University of Texas and an M.S. in Botany from Louisiana State University. He has been on the faculty at Saint Edward's

University and Southwestern University and has extensive experience developing web-based information resources. He serves as the Wildflower Center's botanical authority and is the author of the Wildflower Center's Native Plant Information Network. His publications include the electronic version of Native and Naturalized Woody Plants of Austin and the Texas Hill Country, and the revised edition of Texas Wildflowers.

Photograph courtesy of the [LBJ Library](#) and the Wildflower Center archives.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I want to wish all of you a very Happy, Healthy, Safe and Natural New Year. Then, I want to encourage everyone to add a resolution to your New Year's Resolution list to become more active and involved in Chapter activities in 2008. We want to see more of each of you, not just because of the knowledge, talents, and interests you bring with you but also because Master Naturalists just happen to be nice people that we enjoy being around.

I expect that much of the 2008 Board's time will be spent in an effort to better involve more of you in more of our Chapter activities, especially those of you who were in the earlier classes and have drifted away from active participation. To that end, I want to solicit any and all ideas from everyone on ways that we might improve participation and attendance at monthly meetings and advanced training activities, as well as volunteer projects.

Speaking of being involved, and in keeping with our mission *"To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and*



natural areas within their communities", I want to congratulate those involved in some significant accomplishments this past year.

Several of our members put in a lot of really hard labor, along with other Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center, to help complete the construction of a handicap access trail in Lady Bird Johnson Park. This year at least 15 LMAP volunteers visited 33 properties totaling about 2,900 acres. Since this program began, 123 properties on 10,013 acres have been visited. At least eight of our members gave more than 30 presentations to different groups, including our chapter, on various nature-related topics. Finally, some of our members wrote articles for our own newsletter as well as homeowner's association newsletters. And best of all, this is just a small sample of a much larger list of accomplishments we can all be proud of.



AWARDS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND MILESTONES...



Milestones

Jim Stanley – 2500 hours
(Polished Silver)

2007 Recertifications

November 2007

Don Robinson
Nina Wagner

December 2007

Alice Bulechek
Edna Platte
Peggy Robinson
Jerri Workman

Special First Year Recertification –

September 2007

Annie Rendon



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

February 15 – 18 – The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun, easy – and it helps the birds. Participants count birds anywhere for as little or as long as they wish during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time. To report their counts, they fill out an online checklist at the Great Backyard Bird Count Web Site (www.birdsource.org/gbbc/).

To learn more about this fun activity, the Riverside Nature Center will be hosting a program by local Master Naturalist and Birder Tom Collins on **Saturday February 2**, from 10 to 11 am. (See below)

SAVE THE DATE....Sunday, March 31 – Old Tunnel WMA Volunteer Training, 9:30 a.m. at Selah Ranch. (Project KL-03-A) Contact Myrna Langford mfl@wildblue.net for more information.



ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, January 26 – 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Riverside Nature Center

Kevin Pillow, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited will speak on *Backyard Bird feeding: Results and Responsibility*. Kevin will talk about differences in feeders, differences in food, and resolving problems for backyard birders. Fee is \$2.50 for members of RNC, \$5.00 for nonmembers.

Saturday, February 2 – 10 to 11 am. Training session for the Great Backyard Bird Count, hosted by RNC, and presented by Tom Collins, Birder/Master Naturalist. Tom will use a Powerpoint presentation provided by Cornell University giving background, and how to enter data. He has added information about past Hill Country data, and the final result of one town's 31 data entries. He will present information on the most likely species for the Hill Country, as well as how to get and use an Edwards Plateau Bird Checklist from the web.

Tuesday, February 5, 2:00 p.m. Riverside nature Center, Jayson May of *Native American Seed* in Junction will present a program on "Landscape Restoration – from the back yard to the back forty," dealing with they why, when and how of using native seeds to bring about a natural landscape for the benefit of plants, people, wildlife, and the environment.

Saturday, February 9 – 9 a.m. – 12 noon – Riverside Nature Center

Jim Stanley will present a 3-hour program entitled "Land Management: Making Your Property Naturally Healthy." (Jim says:" for those of you who attended similar

presentations last January, this will be pretty redundant. For others, this can be counted as Advanced Training").

Saturday, February 23 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. – Mitchell Lake Audubon Center in San Antonio (10751 Pleasanton Rd). *Monarchs, Milkweed and MLMP*. Kip Kiphart will be the trainer. (A second part of the program will be offered on March 15 by Mary Kennedy at Cibolo Nature Center – stay tuned.)

This is a popular class that covers monarch butterfly biology, life cycle and migration as well as milkweed ecology. The national MLMP is a citizen science project doing long-term data collection to learn the distribution and abundance of monarch butterflies during their breeding season and is sponsored by the University of Minnesota <http://www.mlmp.org>. *Monarchs, Milkweed and MLMP* is for anyone with a casual interest in butterflies OR someone who wants to become a citizen science volunteer.

For more information about the Mitchell Lake class contact Michelle Santisteban msantisteban@audubon.org.

Contact Kip Kiphart about the training course to be offered at Cibolo Nature Center in the spring and for information about Cibolo's MLMP project skipkip@gvtc.com.

The Kerrville-Schreiner Park's Butterfly Garden also participates in the MLMP program. For more information about this Kerrville site contact Ginny de Wolf dewolf@kctc.com.



FROM THE HERBARIUM

2-Flowered Anemone, *Anemone edwardsiana*, also called *Edwards Plateau thimbleweed*.

Anemone edwardsiana is found only in Texas on the Edwards Plateau. A perennial herb, it blooms February through April, growing to about 1 ft, in the shade. Found on rich moist banks of shaded canyons, especially along limestone ledges at the bases of bluffs, Edward Plateau north to Travis County. Flowers are commonly white, but may range from blue to pink and lavender. Highly resistant to deer, all parts of the plant may be poisonous to humans who are silly enough to eat it in large quantities! This plant appears in *Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country*, by M. Enquist

Photographer: Raul Peña

Source: www.wildflower.org



***Lindheimera texana*: Texas Star**

Donna Snow Robinson
Hill Country Master Naturalist
Newsletter Editor
431 Timber Ridge
Kerrville, TX 78028