

# THE TEXAS STAR

**AUGUST 2008**      **VOL. 6 No 8**

T E X A S

Master  
Naturalist



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

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

## AUGUST MEETING

### Early Texas Naturalists

Members are especially encouraged to attend the August meeting of the chapter, Monday, August 25 at Riverside Nature Center. We will meet and mingle with our new class members over refreshments, beginning at 6:30. At 7:00 we will be treated to a presentation by Lonnie Childs, retired business executive and amateur naturalist. Those of us who heard him speak during earlier class years will remember him for his encyclopedic knowledge, and enthusiasm for his subject.

He will describe how early naturalists and adventurers risked their lives in the pursuit of scientific data. He will highlight the hundred year period following the American Revolution when the social frontier of the United States gradually moved westward. This expansion became the frontier of scientific knowledge, and historians suggest this was the greatest epoch of scientific discovery in our country's history.

Childs will also discuss the period from 1820 to 1880 when the Texas frontier was being combed by hundreds of naturalists in search of specimens that would broaden the knowledge and understanding of botany, zoology, paleontology, and geology. Their personal accounts provide a view of the natural landscape prior to its alteration by European settlers.

Two better known Texas explorers to be discussed by Childs are Ferdinand Roemer and Ferdinand Lindheimer. Both spent time in the Hill Country pursuing their studies. Roemer, the "Father of Texas Geology," traveled extensively and documented his adventures in a book entitled "Roemer's Texas." Lindheimer, the "Father of Texas Botany," settled in New Braunfels to edit a local paper but spent much of his time collecting thousands of plant specimens for leading American botanists.

## THIS MONTH WE HONOR...

### 2008 Recertification

Anne Cassidy

Myrna Langford  
Ron Hood

### Special Recertification

Julie Clay

### Milestones

Scott Magee – Silver (500 hours)



### AND THANK...

Jim and Priscilla Stanley for their recent donation to our chapter

### ADVANCED TRAINING CREDITS

The presentation given by anthropologist Diane Dismukes at the July HCMN Chapter meeting is approved for one hour of advanced training. Please report this under **AT code 08-074**.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Like just about everyone else these days, your Chapter is having to keep a close eye on our expenditures. This year we were presented with some unexpected bills, the cost of renting our monthly meeting room has increased considerably, and other costs are increasing also. For the past several years we have had only one source of funds, the fall Plant Sale at Riverside, which usually generates between \$1500 and \$1700 profit for us. The net result is that we have been unable to fund all of the requests we have received from volunteers wishing to enhance this park or nature center or other activity.

This year we will be selling Chapter t-shirts (see details below) which we anticipate will generate some extra income, although we are mainly doing this to give us a chance to make ourselves more visible to the community. There have been numerous suggestions about how we can raise more money. Some Chapters

have annual dues that generate revenue, others charge more than their costs for New Class trainees, and there are lots of potential fundraising activities that could be tried. We have decided at this point, however, to try the simplest approach and see how that works. We are asking for donations from any of our members who feel like giving in order to help us fund more projects. We will see if this approach brings in enough money to be able to fund everything that we want to, and if not we will begin to try some of the other possibilities.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Chapter, please send it to our Treasurer, Martha Miesch at 345 Twin Springs Rd. N, Kerrville, TX 78028. We regret that donations are not tax deductible as we do not, as yet, have 501(c)(3) status.

Jim Stanley

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

### *Down by the Riverside Native Plant Sale & Festival is Coming!*

**Friday, October 3, from 5:00 to 6:30 P.M.** members of **Riverside Nature Center and/or the Hill Country Master Naturalist** chapter will have an opportunity to purchase plants before the sale to the general public begins on Saturday morning.

Saturday, October 4, 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. in addition to the plant sale (and expert gardening advice), the festival offers lots of free family fun. Once again, Paw-Paw's Barbecue will be on hand to sell barbecue, and this year The Plant Haus will be there offering pots, potting soil, and gardening aids.

Scheduled events include a **Kids' Butterfly Parade -- come in costume. There will be prizes!**

**And more...**

**The Recently Discovered Canyon Lake Gorge**, by our favorite geologist, Bill Ward, Emeritus Professor Geology, University of New Orleans, and honorary member of our chapter. Bill has been instrumental in establishing the Gorge Preservation Society. He will talk about the creation of the Gorge by flood water erosion in July 2002, and the geology that was newly revealed in the walls of the canyon.

**Harvesting Rainwater in a Drought.** To celebrate the installation of the RNC's new rainwater catchment system, Phyllis Muska and Dan Behringer will talk about how they have lived entirely on harvested rainwater and share the basics of installing a system.

**Hill Country Butterflies** by Tom Collins. Tom will talk about some of the more than 200 butterfly species that can be found in the Hill Country, and especially the magical migration of the Monarchs!

## ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP...

**Saturday August 23** – 7:30 P.M. AT RNC's Star Party, Scott Magee will give a presentation on "**Telescope Designs.**" A number of telescopes will be set up for viewing. This program will qualify for HCMN Advanced Training, **AT Code 08-076**

**Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**, Kerr County landowners are invited to participate in a **Range Management Seminar** to be held at the Kerr Wildlife Management area on The program is open to anyone interested in

learning more about grazing management of rangelands. Pre-registration for the event will be \$25 for the first 45 registrants. Participants will hear topics on rangeland health, nutrition, understanding grazeable acreage and grazing basics from Texas AgriLIFE Extension Range specialists. Participants will be provided lunch as well as educational materials. Pre-registration may be made by contacting the Kerr County AgriLife Extension office at 830-257-6568 by Friday, September 12th. Please report this seminar under **AT code # 08-079**

**Thursday and Friday, September 25 and 26, 9:00 A.M.– 5:00 P.M.** there will be a **Prescribed Burn School** for persons interested in learning how to use fire as a management tool. It will be held at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area (13 miles west of Hunt, TX. on FM 1340). Space is limited and you must call the Kerr Area (830-238-4483) for reservations. The course is intended to emphasize proper techniques for burning rangelands to achieve land management goals. Topics include proper burn weather, equipment, fuels, firing techniques, fire behavior, and smoke management. Applicable laws and legal considerations will also be discussed.

The course will be taught under the supervision of a certified burn instructor and will qualify as an approved course for those interested in obtaining a prescribed burn certification. There will be a tour of burned pastures with discussions of management results. For those wishing to apply for certification, there will be a written

test. A grade of 80 or above is necessary for completion of certification of the course. Please report this school under **AT code # 08-080.**

**Saturday, September 27 – 10–11 A.M.,** at RNC, Dr. Jim Dobie will give a talk and slide show on **native Texas turtles.** There will be live turtles, too! **AT Code 08-077.**

**September 29 – October 27** (five Mondays), noon to 5:00 P.M, training for those interested in **assisting tours into the Canyon Lake Gorge.** Must be physically able to walk the Gorge and willing to assist with two tours per quarter for at least a year. To become a docent, you must be a member of the Gorge Preservation Society. Download a membership form at [www.canyongorge.org](http://www.canyongorge.org). More details next month. **AT Code 08-078.**



## CHAPTER SHIRTS AVAILABLE NOW

In August and September, the Hill Country Chapter will be taking orders for our new chapter shirts, with a classy embroidered dragonfly logo. Options include T-Shirts, Polo shirts and a Field shirt, in various shades of blues and greens. The Polo Shirt comes in men's and women's styles.

The prices for the shirts will be \$20.00 for the T-Shirt, \$30.00 for the Polo and \$45.00 for the Field Shirt. We will have sample shirts to see the styles and colors at the chapter meetings in August and September, so be sure to come to the meetings, meet the new class members, and order your new shirts!

For those who cannot make it to either meeting, there is an order form on the next page, which can be printed, and returned by mail with payment by check. (Please make checks payable to Hill Country Master Naturalists). You will have the option to have your order delivered to you by mail for an additional charge of \$4.00 per shirt to cover the postage, or shirts can be picked up at the meetings. Delivery takes about two to three weeks.

This is a great opportunity to get chapter shirts to wear, for a professional look at your projects and programs. And it is also a great way to help raise much needed funds for chapter projects.

So buy a shirt – or two! Help the chapter-- and you – do good and look good!

## TMN Hill Country Chapter Shirt Order Form

NAME  
ADDRESS  
PHONE

**T SHIRT** 100% Cotton, short sleeves, sizes s, m, l, XL, 1x, 2x, 3x \$20.00

COLOR	SIZE	NUMBER OF SHIRTS	TOTAL COST
TEAL	-----	-----	-----
AQUATIC BLUE	-----	-----	-----
DEEP FOREST	-----	-----	-----
PINE	-----	-----	-----

**POLO SHIRT, Mens** 100% Cotton, short sleeves, sizes s, m, l, XL, 1x to 6x \$30.00  
**Womens** sizes xs, s, m, l, xl, xxl Plus sizes 1x and 2x

COLOR	SIZE	NUMBER OF SHIRTS	TOTAL COST
SEAFOAM	-----	-----	-----
BLUEBERRY	-----	-----	-----
CINNAMON	-----	-----	-----

**FIELD SHIRT,** 100% cotton, short sleeves, sizes s, m, l, XL, 1x, 2x, 3x, 4x \$45.00

COLOR	SIZE	NUMBER OF SHIRTS	TOTAL COST
SAGE	-----	-----	-----
OCEAN BLUE	-----	-----	-----
KHAKI	-----	-----	-----
SEA FOAM	-----	-----	-----

**ADDITIONAL COST FOR MAILING, \$4.00 per shirt** -----

**TOTAL FOR ORDER** -----

Please make checks payable to **Hill Country Master Naturalist** Return order form with payment by check to:  
Gracie Waggener  
2703 Bandera Hwy  
Kerrville TX 78028



## WELCOME, CLASS OF 2008!

Don't miss the August meeting and the opportunity to meet and greet our new class. It is exciting to see the range of talents, interests, skills and experience these new members bring to our chapter!

### Bandera County

**James McKinley** lives in Pipe Creek and is already managing the better part of his land under a wildlife valuation. As a retired Chemical Engineer he will have plenty of company in this chapter. Besides broad general interests in Hill Country nature topics, Jim is particularly interested in seeing some quail population restoration. When you meet Jim, ask him to describe his neat little "pseudo spring."

**Ronnie Wilson** is a Medina elementary school teacher currently working on her Science 4-8 certification. She is interested in just about every facet of our Hill Country ecosystems but is particularly excited to be able to capitalize on volunteer opportunities and to make a real difference. Ronnie was also an actress and editor when she lived in Dallas. On her TMN application she submitted as one of her memorable nature moments, "watching two dung beetles do their thing." ... Ronnie is going to fit in just fine!

### Gillespie County

**Jane Good** is a retired pre-school teacher who loves working with small children. Her long-term goal is to help reach children, while they're still listening, to understand, appreciate and value our natural resources. Her interests, besides those of educating children, include habitat restoration, photography, and just "getting her hands dirty" in a good project.

**Dan Harper** is very active in numerous Fredericksburg area schools and organizations including the Ambleside School, the Boy Scouts, his church, and *A Rocha*, a Christian conservation group. He is looking forward to being able to make more of a difference to the community after his Master Naturalist training.

**Ward Miller** is a retired Army officer who lives with his wife Pat in Settler's Ridge, west of Fredericksburg. Ward's home was chosen as a stop on the "home garden tour" as part of the 2008 Fredericksburg NPSOT Wildscapes Workshop. His interest in and love for native forbs and grasses are unparalleled. Ward is on a first-name basis with every native plant supplier in Central Texas!

**Rhoda Reynolds** retired from teaching art seven years ago before moving to the Hill Country, where she still works part time in retail flowers. Her interests include many aspects of our Hill Country ecosystems and in sharing a new-found knowledge of them with others. She would also like to do hands on trail and wilderness area maintenance and to assist with plant sales, etc. Boy, do we have a spot for Rhoda!

### Kendall County

**Ruth Coffey** is a retired science teacher who has a special interest in earth sciences. She enjoys volunteering as a park docent and also volunteers with Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, Habitat for Humanity, and the spay and neuter program in San Antonio. Ruth is particularly interested in working with animals and doing fieldwork.

**Bill Csanyi** is a retired project manager and moved from Houston to Comfort last year. He is an avid cyclist and a flint knapper, enjoys the outdoors, and is active in the Hill Country Archeological Society. He is interested in learning how to manage his property in Comfort and enjoys presenting demonstrations and educational programs at schools and events.

**Kristie Denbow** is president of the Kendall County Partnership for Parks and has experience constructing parks, working on a farm and a ranch, and fishing. Her goal is to gain greater knowledge of the natural world and communicate that knowledge to others. She also wants to help build parks and other natural areas in Kendall County.

**Adelaide Fuhrer** loves trees and plants and wants to learn about and teach others about conservation of natural habitats. Adelaide particularly enjoys trips to Perdenales State Park and has been a volunteer for two years with the Early Childhood Intervention program.

**Allen Goodwin** is a retired consultant now living in Comfort after spending all his adult life in large cities. As a youngster, he was involved in all areas of scouting and spent a lot of time outdoors. Now he wants to get back to that. He still enjoys hiking, and he enjoys volunteer work to benefit his church and community.

**Barbara Kay Harris** is a medical student in residency in Boerne. She is interested in just about every facet of the outdoors. She is looking, in particular, for outdoor activities she can share with her Dad, Boyd, who is also in this year's class. Her interests vary from computers and photography to public speaking and volunteering. She starts her day as many of us do, with a cup of coffee and several bird feeding stations to monitor and enjoy.

**Steve Lowe** manages two Kendall County parks near Comfort, one not yet open, another very close to opening. He has extensive knowledge of the flora and fauna and issues of his corner of Kendall County. His position provides many wonderful opportunities for the Chapter to become engaged in some very meaningful volunteer work. Steve has an obvious passion for the Hill Country and his vision fits the Master Naturalist vision to a Tee.

**Michael McLaughlin** is retired from the U.S. Air Force and is now a woodworker. He is interested in learning about the Hill Country ecosystem and wants to participate in trail maintenance and wildlife surveys. Last November Michael and his wife, Sharon, also a Master Naturalist, saw a bear crossing the Frio River at dusk in Garner State Park.

## Kerr County

**Arik Beal** has always enjoyed the natural world. He is a retired Process Engineer interested in herpetology and aquatic projects. He has enjoyed capturing and photographing snakes in the wild, including "numerous western diamondbacks, a couple of Texas horned lizards, a few skinks, and one really angry Texas rat snake." He is good with computers and public speaking and goes fishing at least twice a week.

**Dennis Day**, was a Boy Scout leader for ten years. The retired business consultant enjoys hikes at Enchanted Rock, Pedernales Falls, and along the beautiful Guadalupe. He looks forward to learning about land management, and the area ecosystems and to helping build and maintain hiking trails as part of his volunteer service.

**Fane Downs** moved to Ingram earlier this year where she enjoys becoming acquainted with the birds and plants in her yard. She is a retired Presbyterian minister, and former history professor and Girl Scout professional. She heard about the Master Naturalist program through a friend, and now hopes to bring her teaching, speaking, and writing experience to actively address issues affecting the natural environment.

**Boyd Harris** is a retired pastor living in Kerrville who enjoys combining RVing and nature studies. No surprise, with his experience as a preacher, Boyd is interested in educating others and being a docent as well as pitching in with restoration and monitoring projects.

**Zella M. Hawkins** is a massage therapist interested in learning more about the hill country and sharing that knowledge with the community. She recently went bird-watching and enjoyed watching a family of red fox discovered along the way. She hopes to help develop programs for children, and to use her skills in public speaking and photography.

**Ellen Jackson** is a former teacher who recently retired to the hill country. She is a self-described "Rottweiler about litter" and when canoeing on the Buffalo River in Tennessee with friends, they picked up trash as they went. Now, "I pick up litter wherever I go." She expects to learn about the ecosystems and wildlife of the hill country and to use her time and energy to preserve "this beautiful place."

**Mary K. LaMont** has just moved to Kerrville after retiring as a special education public school teacher. She is interested in “anything related to wildlife, ecosystems, and water management.” She has raised and released opossum babies, cotton tail rabbits, rats, and mice. She says “I’m not afraid of any critter except roaches.”

**Sandy Leyendecker** is a retired educator. She has lived in the hill country for four years, and wants to learn more about it, to help enhance and improve it. On their 25 acres of property, she had enjoyed providing wildlife with natural shelters and cultivating the plants they like to eat. She has volunteered much time recently at the Freeman-Fritts Vet Clinic and Shelter, and at Riverside Nature Center.

**William Lummis** lives in Hunt and enjoys nature, particularly the Guadalupe River. He is interested in conservation, habitat restoration, and water conservation, including rainwater harvesting. William volunteers with Meals on Wheels and also enjoys gardening.

**Rob McCorkle**, from Ingram, works for Texas Parks & Wildlife, where he is a Media Relations Coordinator. Rob is a professional writer, a member of several related organizations, including the Texas Outdoor Writers Association. He gets out from behind the keyboard, though, and is very active in kayaking, seeing nature up close, and volunteering for the Upper Guadalupe River Authority and Riverside Nature Center.

**Alexis McRobert** is a front porch nature watcher with a lifelong interest in the outdoors. She wants to help preserve our natural resources and is interested in working at the Riverside Nature Center and helping with habitat restoration.

**Roger McRobert** is a retired Assistant U.S. Attorney. He enjoys fly fishing and church related volunteer work. Roger is interested in public speaking and teaching and is open to new experiences and opportunities.

**Deborah D. Sargent** is very excited about the Master Naturalist program. She says, “I have waited all year to apply.” She is particularly interested in butterfly tagging and promoting the use of native plants. Currently she volunteers with the UGRA water sampling program, taking in samples weekly. Though “not an expert,” she enjoys birding and photography.

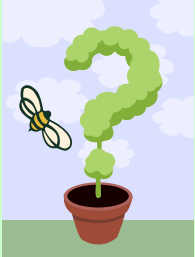
**Linda Smith** is a former director of human resources. She has friends who are Master Naturalists, and has attended some of our meetings and events. “Learning more is a primary interest,” she says. She counts “seeing the springs gush forth at the headwaters of the North Fork of the Guadalupe” as a “magic” experience. She currently volunteers with NPSOT, and at the butterfly garden of Kerrville Schreiner Park.

**Harriet Warren** is a retired computer systems analyst who recently returned to the Kerrville area she loved as a child. She wants to “share its wonders with newcomers...and...ensure it remains for future generations.” She is interested in field research, surveys, and census projects, as well as using her experience in education, public information, and public speaking.

**Don Willoughby** retired from commercial real estate to his home in Ingram. Always interested in the outdoors, he now has time to give back and to share his passion for nature with others. His interests vary across the entire spectrum of experiences his home affords him. He is particularly interested in counts and monitoring projects and various other projects “that entail outdoor physical labor.” Wow...

## Travis County

**Christina Williams** works as a Fish & Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Austin. She wishes to explore engaging the Service more with Hill Country landowners. Christina loves to work with people to educate them and share with them the wonders of their land. She is currently focused on endangered species protection and will be a wonderful source of knowledge to the Chapter. Many of us will know Christina as the daughter of our renowned Chapter Archivist and geology teacher, Susan Longacre.



## FAQ

**Who are we?** The Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter is a group of trained volunteers who live in Bandera, Gillespie, Kendall, and Kerr Counties. This eastern part of the Edwards Plateau in Central Texas, also known as the Texas Hill Country, offers the widest diversity of plants and animals in Texas.

**What is the TMN 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.

*There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. ...Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque-flower is as right as inalienable as free speech."*

*- Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac*

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**Kerrville TX 78028**



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