

# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the  
Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter

Julie Gibson



Lindheimeria texana  
Texas Star

T E X A S



Hill Country Chapter

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

We Honor	2
Advanced Training	3
Kendall Projects	4
Lion and Bears and Volunteers, Oh My!	5
Hypoxylon Canker	6
Wild Country Retreat	6
Announcements	7
Contact Us	8



April 2009  
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## APRIL MEETING .....Hill Country Butterflies

Tom Collins, a Texas Master Naturalist with more than 5,000 volunteer hours will present a program entitled **"Hill Country Butterflies."** He will explore the science and beauty of some of the 150 plus species of butterflies that are found in the Hill Country.



Collins's interest in butterflies developed from his birding activities. His work with butterflies includes updating the butterfly list

for Kerr County, restarting the Kerrville North American Butterfly Count, and developing a nature checklist as part of the Hill Country Chapter Fauna Study Project.

Join us at 7:00 pm, Monday, April 27 at Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville. Chat with members and guests before the meeting during our "social half hour."

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE .....John Huecksteadt

### Nourishing the Earth in Return

While in March much of the northern hemisphere begins to stir from its torpor, in April, Nature swings her feet onto the floor and sets to work. There is immediately such a tizzy of activity that you would have to be comatose not to be impressed. So, there is no more fitting a time to celebrate Earth Day than April. The Earth *makes* you pay attention then.

Two things have always amazed me about April. First is the broad spectrum of greens nature parades before us. The green shades of spring take no umbrage from the more-touted reds and yellows of fall. Throughout summer these lively green shades seem to converge into

a more homogenous, darker, more serene green. In April though, the greens are more vibrant and somehow more refreshing. How can anyone not stand in awe at the lime green of our Cedar Elms during their first week of leafing out? How can anyone not be amazed at the Mesquite, putting out two inch chartreuse threads overnight? If you stayed up, could you hear the buds popping, like corn?

The second thing about April that stirs loamy wonder in me is the smell of the earth. The soil, especially after any amount of rain,  
*please turn to page two.*

## THIS MONTH WE HONOR

<u>Milestones</u>	<u>2009 Re-Certification</u>	<u>Special First Year Re-Certification</u>	<u>First Year Certification</u>
<i>Brushed Silver 500 hours</i>	<i>Salamander</i>		<i>Dragonfly</i>
Lars Nielsen	Tom Collins	<i>Salamander</i>	Ward Miller
<i>Bronze 250 hours</i>	John Huecksteadt	Ward Miller	
Julie Clay	Martha Miesch		
	Phyllis Muska		
	Lars Nielsen		
	Sandy Pena		
	Gracie Waggener		

Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly.  
Anonymous

Do you know?

Eastern and Western butterfly species plus periodic colonists from tropical forests converge in Texas and result in the greatest number of butterflies found in any of the States.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE .....John Huecksteadt

*Nourishing continued.*  
splashes on some musky scents and deep, black magical perfumes. Every turn of the garden spade seems to uncover some wonderful nuance, some hidden fragrance. If you are moved to do so, dare the fire ants and sandburs and while nobody is watching, get down on all fours and put your nose right onto the earth. Breathe in the alluring richness Nature has dabbed behind her ear.

In April, when Nature makes us aware how nourishing she is, there is perhaps no better metaphor for nurturing the Earth in return than planting and then caring for a tree. It contains and profoundly expresses the nut, the kernel, of our role in the circle of stewardship we hold so dearly. Take part and be active in some facet of Earth Day this year, be it helping at a plant sale by assisting, purchasing, or both. It is our chance to give back.





## ADVANCED TRAINING ..... Your chance to learn more



- **The ABC's of Rainwater Harvesting AT 09-049**  
Saturday, April 18, 10:30am, Riverside Nature Center, Free  
Presenter: Sandy and Raul Pena  
The Pena's will tell you how they developed their system and how you can get started.
  
- **Water Issues and Rain Water Harvesting AT 09-050**  
Saturday, April 18, 1:30pm, Riverside Nature Center, Free  
Presenter: Mike Mecke, Natural Resources Manager & Water Specialist (retired)  
Details and slides presented of how Rainwater Harvesting may fit your home, office, ranch or for wildlife.
  
- **Spring Wildflower Walk AT 09-038**  
Friday, April 24, 9am - noon, Cibolo Nature Center, CNC members \$15; non-members \$20.  
Presenter: Lottie Millsaps, self-taught botanist  
The Wards' native plant gardens are a perfect place to see a diversity of spring wildflowers.  
Pre-registration required. Call 830-249-4616. Limited to 20.
  
- **Forbs Identification AT 09-051**  
Saturday, April 25, 9am, Riverside Nature Center, Free.  
Presenter: John Huecksteadt, Texas Master Naturalist  
A slide presentation showing 65 common forbs. Learn about what flowers are blooming by our roadsides.
  
- **Birding by Ear AT 09-039**  
Saturday, April 25, 7am-9am, CNC, Free  
Presenter: Tom and Patsy Inglet of Boerne Birders  
When breeding and nesting birds vocalize, they may be found and identified easily by their songs. Join a friendly group who welcome beginners and experienced birders.  
For more information, call 830-230-5551 or 210-710-3981.
  
- **Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden AT 09-045**  
Saturday, May 2, 10am-11am, Riverside Nature Center, Free  
Presenter: Kathy Lyles  
Planting larval plants to attract butterflies. Kathy brings containers with chomping caterpillars. She likes introducing people to the concept that if you have butterflies, then you will have caterpillars and that's a good thing.
  
- **Riparian Workshops for Landowners AT 09-033**  
[Saturday, May 2](#), 8am-4pm, River Tree Estates, on the Frio River south of Leakey  
[Tuesday, May 5](#), 9am-4pm, Dos Chemeneas Ranch on the Picoso Creek near Eagle Pass  
[Wednesday, May 6](#), 8am-4pm, Myane Ranch on the Nueces River near La Pryor  
[Thursday, May 7](#), 8am-4pm, Choya Ranch on Pulliam Creek and the Nueces near Barksdale  
[Friday, May 8](#), 8am-4pm, Burns Ranch on the Frio River near Dilley  
[Friday, May 8](#), 7:00 pm, Riparian Function Talk, R.L.White Ranch on San Geronimo Creek  
Presenter: Nueces River Authority and National Riparian Service Team  
Learn basic riparian dynamics: the interaction of hydrology - vegetation - erosion/deposition. Free.  
Registration required. Contact Sky Lewey at [slewey@nueces-ra.org](mailto:slewey@nueces-ra.org) or call 830-278-6810.
  
- **Tree Identification AT 09-052**  
Saturday, May 16, 9am, RNC, Free.  
Presenter: Jim Stanley, Texas Master Naturalist  
A presentation on how to identify common Hill Country trees and shrubs.
  
- **Paddling the Guadalupe River AT 09-046**  
Saturday, May 30, 1pm- 2 pm, RNC, Free  
Presenter: Dr. Wayne H. McAlister author of *Paddling the Guadalupe* and other books.  
An informal talk and slide show of a trip on the Guadalupe River from Hunt to Guadalupe Bay.



### FOUR COUNTY FACTS

#### BANDERA

Human inhabitants arrived here around 6,000 to 10,000 years ago. Next came Lipan Apache then, Comanche. The Spanish explored the area in the 1700s and Anglos settled Bandera in 1853.

#### GILLESPIE

Tonkawa Indians were the first known population of the future county. Comanche and Kiowa appear in the 1800s. In 1846, 120 German settlers arrive at the site of Fredericksburg.

#### KENDALL

Hunting and gathering peoples were in the area 10,000 years ago, followed by Lipan Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche in the 1700s and 1800s. Germans began arriving in the 1840s.

#### KERR

Inhabitants along the Guadalupe arrived 6,000 to 10,000 years ago. Lipan Apache, Comanche, and Kiowa followed. The Spanish were present in the 1700s. 1846 saw the first Anglo settlement.

## Volunteer Projects

We have 63 opportunities for service in our four county region.

5 projects in Bandera	10 projects in Gillespie
8 projects in Kendall	15 projects in Kerr
25 projects Chapter Support and Cross-County	

THIS MONTH LET'S CHECK OUT KENDALL.

- ★ It's time to make note of Monarchs. MLMP at CNC.  
KL-02-A [Kip Kiphart](#)
- ★ Get active naturally! Activities abound year 'round at CNC.  
KL-02-B [Bob Keiser](#)
- ★ Go to bat for our favorite mosquito eating friends - over 3 million of them! Old Tunnel WMA is home to Brazilian free-tailed and Cave Myotis bats.  
KL-03-A [Myrna Langford](#)
- ★ Fun and education go hand in hand! Assist at Guadalupe River SP events.  
KL-03-B [Kip Kiphart](#)
- ★ Help make new parks happen.  
KL04-B James Kiehl River Bend Park  
KL-04-C Joshua Springs Parks and Preserve  
[Kristie Denbow](#)
- ★ To the rescue at WRR! Save a wild life.  
KL-06-A [Ruth Coffey](#)
- ★ Need a history lesson? How a one from 115 million years ago? There is a lot to learn and do at Canyon Gorge.  
KL-07-A [Cathy Downs](#)

**Look around**  
**Write it down**  
**Send it in**

# Lions and Bears and Volunteers, Oh My!

by  
Ruth Coffey

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation  
KL-06-A

Volunteering at Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation (WRR) located in Kendalia allows you to see the local fauna and experience what is needed for the animals to survive.

WRR's mission is to provide rescue, rehabilitation, and release of orphaned, injured or displaced wildlife. It is widely recognized as a superior rehabilitation and sanctuary facility and is accredited by The Association of Sanctuaries (TAOS). We provide a permanent home for a variety of mammals (wolves, bears, jaguars, cougars, and primates), many species of migratory birds, and non-indigenous reptiles.

Every year over 5000 animals are brought to WRR, most are from surrounding areas, but many are from around the country. The majority of these animals are rehabilitated and released.

Non-releasable animals are provided permanent sanctuary in large natural habitats. These animals include indigenous wildlife, exotic animals victimized by the pet trade and roadside zoos, and retirees from research facilities.

In addition, WRR provides advice and assistance in dealing with human-wildlife encounters in a non-lethal manner.

The sanctuary maintains a 24 hour emergency hotline and accepts animals 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We have a staff of twenty and as many as eighteen interns who come from the United States and abroad to work at the sanctuary and gain experience and training in wildlife

rehabilitation and animal care. We also have visiting observers from all over the world.

Our sanctuary thrives without tax dollars or state income. WRR is supported by a membership of over 11,000 individuals and is assisted by 150 volunteers.

Volunteers are the backbone of WRR.

As a volunteer picking up species from various locations, you learn of both the problems encountered by wildlife and the solutions to help them. As an example: many new residents are not accustomed to deer leaving their young alone. During last Memorial Day weekend, forty fawns were brought to the sanctuary; each person insisted that the fawn was abandoned by its mother! When land is purchased, unfortunately instructions are not given on how to maintain it.

In the sanctuary's nursery you will tend to the infants and wounded. In the open area enclosures you tend to the animals ready to be released back into the wild. Diets, habitats, and animal behavior can be observed and studied in these settings.

We welcome you to take a few hours to come out and work in an interesting and positive environment in the beautiful Hill Country.

Through training, education, advocacy, and direct animal care, WRR fulfills its commitment to wildlife protection and ethical, sustainable relations between humans and the natural world.

We hope to see you soon at WRR!

Contact Project Coordinator [Ruth Coffey](#).





## **Hypoxylon Canker Report**



We are entering uncharted waters due to the ongoing drought. Ironic, isn't it? The truth is, no one can predict the effects as none of us have experienced this severe a drought in our lifetimes.

Deer are eating prickly pear cactus, lantana, and salvias in my neighborhood. I visited a property last week where not only live oaks were suffering, but algarita and Ashe juniper as well. We will lose trees to drought this year - lots of trees!

Hypoxylon canker will be prevalent this year with post oak and Texas oak taking the brunt of the hit. Live oaks may also succumb. During the drought of the mid to late 1990's, I observed live oak with hypoxylon.

Bacterial leaf scorch will also be prevalent this year with Texas oak taking the most damage. I'm quite sure other diseases and insects will take their toll on trees as well. When trees are stressed they are more susceptible to insect and disease. The ongoing drought is a huge stressing agent. Until we receive significant rain, all bets are off.

What can we do? Efficiently water our significant trees in our landscapes and let Mother Nature "thin the herd". Efficient water use includes using soaker hoses early and late in the day preferably under layers of mulch and monitoring output. One-half to one inch per week is more than enough water to maintain our natural tree populations. Other than that, wait for rain.

Please visit

<http://www.texasoakwilt.org/Stewardship/disease.html> for more information on bacterial leaf scorch and hypoxylon canker; <http://www.treesaregood.org> may have additional information.

Robert Edmonson  
Biologist II, Texas Forest Service

Hill Country Texas Master Naturalist

# Wild Country Retreat

"Retreat" from

**Education, Perspiration, and Frustration**

to

**Conversation, Relaxation, and Observation**

Take advantage of this great opportunity to meet new students and fellow Chapter members from the four county area.

Stay for the weekend or come for the day.

**Join us this fall at beautiful  
Guadalupe River State Park  
for camping and outdoor fun.**

Activities include:

- birding
- canoeing or kayaking
- fishing
- hiking
- nature photography
- stargazing
- and more!

## Interested?

For information e-mail

**Gracie Waggener at [gg@bizstx.rr.com](mailto:gg@bizstx.rr.com)**

or

**Cathy Downs at [mzdowns@hctc.net](mailto:mzdowns@hctc.net)**

# Don't Miss

The Native Plant Sale  
and  
Earth Day Celebration  
at  
Riverside Nature Center

Saturday,  
April 18  
8am-3pm

Sandy and Raul Pena  
present  
"ABCs of Rainwater Harvesting"  
at 10:30.

RNC and NPSOT  
Members Only Presale  
Friday, 5pm - 6:30pm



Steve Nelle's program  
given at the March 23  
chapter meeting  
qualifies for  
Advanced Training.  
Please report it using  
AT code 09-039.

Tim Shumann's program,  
"US Fish & Wildlife  
Cooperation Projects"  
given March 10 for the  
Friends of the FBG Nature  
Center qualifies for  
Advanced Training.  
AT code 09-041

## OPPORTUNITIES THAT COUNT .... For good and for volunteer hours

KERRVILLE-SCHREINER PARK  
VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

Tuesday, April 28  
8:30 AM - Noon

Please call Jim Gardner  
for the gate code.

830-896-1122 or 830-285-2129

JAMES KIEHL  
RIVER BEND PARK  
in Kendall County is now  
OPEN!

7am - Dusk

KL-04-B

Project Coordinator  
Kristie Denbow

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## Hill Country Chapter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009

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WE'RE ONLINE!

[grovesite.com/tmn/hcmn](http://grovesite.com/tmn/hcmn)

We meet the fourth Monday of each month (excluding Dec.) at 7:00 pm at Riverside Nature Center  
150 Francisco Lemos St. in Kerrville.  
Our meetings are open to everyone.

Texas Master Naturalist 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.

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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

AgriLIFE EXTENSION

Texas A&M System

*The Texas Star* newsletter is a monthly publication of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program. News, comments, information, and ideas are always welcome. Please contact **Kristie Denbow**, Editor, at [denbow@gvtc.com](mailto:denbow@gvtc.com).