

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter



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Texas Star

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T E X A S



Hill Country Chapter

SEPTEMBER MEETING Texas Forest Service

Mark Duff, Staff Forester II with the Texas Forest Service (TFS), will provide an update on oak wilt in the Hill Country, discuss tree selection for reforestation and shed light on how to manage trees during drought.



Before joining TFS in 1991, he worked in forest-related positions in seven states

and four countries. Mr. Duff has five publications, including *Opportunities for Forest and Range Restoration in the Texas Hill Country* with Susan Sander.

Join us Monday, September 28, at 7p.m. at Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE John Huecksteadt

Journaling and Naturalists

In an essay entitled "Can a Birder Be a Naturalist?" that appeared two years ago in *Texas Birds Annual*, Kent Rylander makes the point that communication is the key differentiator between a birder and a naturalist. Birders, he says, may keep lists, but if they do so in the same way philatelists collect stamps or my cousin visits U.S. states so she can say she's been there, then they are mere "listers," not naturalists.

Prerequisite to listing a bird or a forb is the need to have a name to call it, to distinguish it from all those other brown birds and yellow flowers. At least the listers are forced to learn the names of plants and animals on their life-lists and inventories. That's a good and necessary part of being a naturalist. Something more is needed though.

A practice that begins to explain what this "more" might be is journaling. Journaling introduces the factor of time, of change, of observing a plant or animal, even an entire ecosystem over time. In that way, we begin to see how things fit together, how relationships develop and braid their way through time. Journals give us a basis, a font, for communicating.

My writing teacher in school made all his students keep what he called a "commonplace book." I don't remember where the phrase came from and only now

do I think I begin to understand the name. We were to make daily entries in our commonplace books - observations of nature, twists in friendships, movements of our hearts, better understood concepts, fresh insights. We carried our commonplace books with us everywhere, always protruding, dog-eared, stuck into one pocket or another. Every week Fr. Waters would ask us to read an entry from our commonplace book. When assignments inevitably came to communicate in writing some experience or observation, we had a raft of pegs from our books on which to hang a story.

As a new class of naturalists begins to understand what they're getting into and not to be lost on the rest of us, it is important to emphasize the need for naturalists to write things down and to communicate what they observe to others. It may never be noted in future studies that American Goldfinches returned to the Hill Country on September 12 in 2009, but it may be noted that for five successive years they appeared an added two days later every year. It may seem incidental that Bluebell gentians appear paler this year, but someday the fact that they were here at all in 2009 may be significant.



September 2009
Volume 7, No. 9

THIS MONTH WE HONOR

Milestones

Gold 1000 hours

Kristie Denbow

Bronze 250 hours

Jim Gardner

2009 Re-Certification

Salamander

Bill Frodyma

Annie Rendon

Initial Certification

Dragonfly

Linda Smith

© kwd

The true meaning of life, Wesley, is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

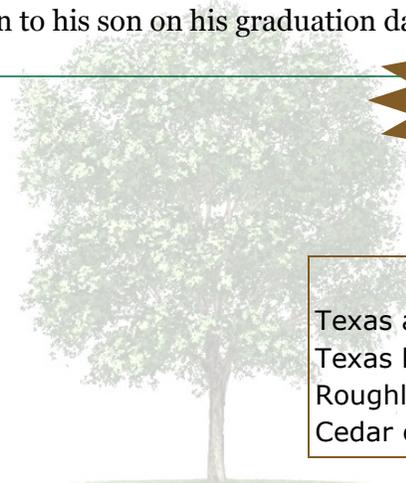
Nelson Henderson to his son on his graduation day.

Do you know?

TFS coordinates the Texas Big Tree Registry where 78 trees in Texas are recognized by American Forests as the largest of their kind in the nation.

Champion trees in our four-county area:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Texas ash, Bandera (national) | Bigtooth maple, Bandera |
| Texas buckeye, Gillespie (national) | Chinkapin oak, Bandera |
| Roughleaf dogwood, Gillespie | American smoketree, Gillespie |
| Cedar elm, Kendall | Prairie sumac, Gillespie |



Register Now!

T E X A S

Master Naturalist™

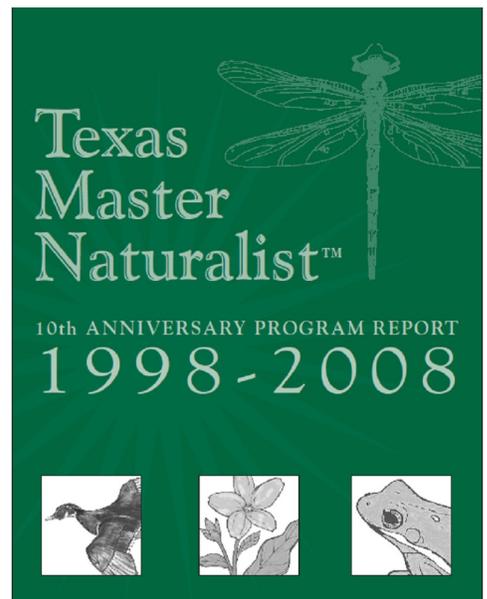


Annual Meeting and Advanced Training

October 23-25 at beautiful Mo-Ranch

<http://www.regonline.com>

**Early/Discounted Registration Deadline:
Sunday, September 27.**



<http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu/>

ADVANCED TRAINING Your chance to learn more



- **Volunteer Training for Guadalupe River State Park Discovery Center AT 09-090**
 Sunday, September 20, 1-4p.m., Guadalupe River S. P. Discovery Center
 Presenter: Tara Tucker, Texas Parks and Wildlife regional interpretative specialist
 Training will encompass: 1) Orientation to Discovery Center exhibits, 2) Orientation to activity boxes and backpacks, 3) Customer service and interpretation overview.
 Contact Tom Anderson 210-241-1916 or tanderson46@satx.rr.com.
- **Water Facts and Fun AT 085-09**
 Saturday, September 26, 10-11a.m., RNC, \$3/members/children<12; \$6/nonmembers
 Presenter: Tara Bushnoe, Upper Guadalupe River Authority
 A program for children and adults on the importance of clean water. Assist in conducting water quality tests and look at invertebrates found in the water.
- **Kerr Wildlife Management Area Seminar AT 09-085**
 Friday, October 2, 1-5p.m., Free
 An ecosystems approach to range and wildlife habitat management. Topics include white-tailed deer, grazing management, prescribed burning, brush control, and how management techniques effect threatened and endangered species.
 To register contact Lisa Wolle at KWMA Headquarters, 830-238-4483.
- **Rainwater Harvesting in a Drought AT 09-087**
 Saturday, October 3, 10-11a.m., RNC, Free
 Presenters: Phyllis Muska and Dan Behringer, Texas Master Naturalists
 Phyllis and Dan installed a rainwater harvesting system when they built their home. Their sole source of water is rainwater. Hear their story and learn the basics of setting up a rainwater collection system.
- **Owls: Denizens of the Dark AT 09-088**
 Saturday, October 3, 11:30a.m.-12:30p.m., RNC, Free
 Presenter: Craig Hensley, former Texas Parks & Wildlife Naturalist
 A presentation on owls, their lore, and natural history. During this interactive program, you willll learn about their amazing adaptations and who's who among the owls of Texas.

Chapter Shirt Sale Fundraiser

This year we have another great selection of merchandise with the Hill Country Chapter logo in beautiful embroidery.



We have added new shirt styles and colors, along with hats and bags.

Our new items will be displayed at the chapter meeting and the Down by the Riverside members only pre-sale.

Order at the meeting or print the attached order form

and return it with your check to Gracie Waggener. Pick up your purchases later or have them mailed for only \$4.00.



Remember, this is a chapter fundraiser. It is a great way to get Hill Country Master Naturalist logo wear and help the chapter fund requests for projects.



**Check them out
and place your order!**

Help out the chapter, get a great shirt, go out and look like the trained Master Naturalist you are!

Our Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) itemizes 16 duties of the New Class Director, but two of them tell the main story: "Serve as Class Manager for the New Class" and "Use...the New Class Guidelines...to coordinate Chapter's training program; plan, implement, and evaluate the Chapter training curriculum; develop training calendar." That's all there is to it!

Actually, of course, there's a lot more to it. Fortunately, the experience of many classes past has culminated in a set of quite specific and valuable directions and both the COH and the New Class Guidelines define in considerable detail the expectations and recommendations for the preparation and implementation of the new class.

The preface to the New Class Guidelines sets the tone: "Preparing for and running the new class each year is probably the most important thing we do as a Chapter. It is fundamentally the board's responsibility to see that the training is done well..."

The Guidelines also include a comprehensive timeline which drives the priorities and sequencing of the hundreds of activities necessary for a successful class. The activities cover essentially a full year, beginning immediately after the completion of the fall class and ending as the next class finishes. Without listing the many details, it may be useful to break down the process into what I consider six key stages.

Stage 1: Appointment of the New Class Director and the New Class Committee. The New Class Committee must include members from two or more previous classes. The committee currently has six members, four of whom are "veterans" whose experience and judgment have made my job infinitely easier. My superb team includes Roger McRoberts, Mary Frances Watson, Diane McMahon, Rebecca Shupp, and Sandy Peña.

Stage 2: Develop a "straw man" schedule and sequence of topics along with likely presenters and alternates. This happens early in the new year. There are prioritized topics essential to TMN training and many topics unique to the Hill Country that we want to include if the schedule permits. We meet with the board to discuss this preliminary work and get a blessing to move forward. We had an excellent outcome this year, with important suggestions from board members regarding key open dates and speakers.

Stage 3: March through May. Busy time...we formalize the speaker invitation packages (31 this year) to secure commitments on topics, dates, and times. We also finalize the class schedule, working closely with the Communications Director and especially the Membership Director who are developing the recruiting brochure and preparing the application packages.

Stage 4: Summertime...putting the pieces in place! Class applications begin coming in fast and furious in July and we must order and assemble the state curriculum sets. The Membership Director schedules a meeting between the all-important mentors and the class committee to discuss the transition between class selection and class start.

Stage 5: Conduct the class...this is obviously the most fun and rewarding phase! Each class day requires coordination among dozens of contributors and it happens with enthusiasm and efficiency!

Stage 6: Evaluate and transition toward the next year's class. This is as important as any of the other phases because new teams need to be formed and new planning begun as soon as possible to insure continuity.

If you have a chance to participate as a member of the New Class Committee (or as New Class Director) you should embrace the opportunity. You will be literally fulfilling the essence of the Mission Statement to "develop a corps of well informed volunteers..." Some say it is the most important thing we do as a chapter. I believe that.

Bob McKinley

Meet The Class of 2009



BANDERA COUNTY

Jerold Hjelmstad

Jerold is originally from North Dakota and now resides in beautiful Bandera County. He is a retired accountant and volunteers many hours on the Community Clinic Board of Directors and as a court appointed child advocate for the CASA program. He and his wife enjoy gardening and have birded at the World Birding Center and other parks in the Rio Grande Valley. Jerold wants to learn more about nature and natural resources. He became interested in the program after reading about the Hill Country Chapter in the newspaper.

Floyd Trefny

Karla Trefny

Floyd and Karla purchased a Bandera County ranch 20 years ago and finally moved to the ranch in 2007. Floyd would like to restore habitat, preserve natural resources, and participate in wildlife counts. He is a registered engineer in the state of Texas. Karla is a chef who can handle a chain saw and has been working to treat oak wilt on their ranch. She has experience with various treatments and has recorded data that may help others with their oak wilt problems. Floyd and Karla have adopted a portion of their highway and conduct monthly litter clean-ups. They heard about the chapter from Jeri and Walter Workman.

GILLESPIE COUNTY

Yvonne Carlyle

Yvonne is an architectural design consultant who works in the Dallas area but lives near Doss. She and her husband love living in their new hilltop home except during the recent storm that destroyed 75 of their trees. Yvonne would like to expand her knowledge of the state's natural resources, especially the Hill Country. She is interested in graphic arts, teaching, and native plants and is a member of the Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT. Yvonne hopes to volunteer for activities that teach Doss and Fredericksburg school children to identify and nurture Texas native plants. She would also enjoy teaching techniques of community rainwater collection.

Ken Dexter

Ken has recently returned to Texas from California where he was employed in oil refinery environmental compliance. He and his family live in the Stone Ridge area of Fredericksburg. Ken hopes to learn more about the Texas natural environment. His skills and interests include public speaking, computers, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, and canoeing. Ken volunteers with Old Tunnel WMA, Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, and the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center. He is a member of the Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT.

Linda Ekenstam

Linda and her husband moved from the Tulsa area to Fredericksburg eight months ago. Linda retired from teaching elementary school in Colorado and would enjoy working with that age group again as a Master Naturalist. She is anxious to learn about the flora, fauna, and history of her newly adopted state.

Nita Hazle

Nita is a biology professor who recently moved from Austin to Fredericksburg with her family. She sees the Master Naturalist program as a way for her to learn more about Hill Country ecosystems and share that knowledge with her students and others. She also wants to become involved in conservation efforts. Nita is interested in bird behavior and identification. She would like to provide folks with the opportunity to recognize the roles played by native flora and fauna and the ability to conduct educational and constructive activities that enhance and encourage a natural presence such as native tree planting and blue-bird nest box building.

Cat Heisler-Weikel

Cat hails from Washington State where she owned and operated several businesses. Her current position with the Navajo Grill allows free daytime hours to explore state parks and natural areas. The contrast between the Pacific Northwest and the Texas Hill Country has sparked her interest to learn more about our unique ecosystem.

Janet Lindley**Jim Lindley**

Janet and Jim, wife and husband, have joined the program as a team. Jim is a physician and Janet is a registered nurse. They recently retired and moved from Austin to their ranch in Stonewall. The ranch had been their weekend retreat for thirty years. Now they are enjoying the good life of windstorms, falling trees, coyotes, and bobcats. Jim and Janet want to learn more about caring for the land, trees, and wildlife and how they can implement techniques on their ranch. Jim is interested in teaching, photography, and computers. He is a member of the Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools. Janet enjoys teaching, gardening with native plants, and the use of insects for pest control. They are looking forward to volunteering with local schools and teaching students about establishing wildlife habitats, rainwater collection, predator control, and livestock and pasture management.

Linda Ross

Linda and her husband came to the Hill Country in 1982 to custom farm hay and pecans in the tiny communities of Telegraph, Barksdale, and Red Hill, all near Junction. Linda chose to retire to Fredericksburg because she thinks it is just the right size. She would like to share her love of gardening and nature by establishing butterfly gardens in assisted living communities.

Tom Schall

Tom lives in Gillespie County just north of Kerrville. He has been an outdoor enthusiast all of his life. As a child, he learned about the outdoors from his father. Tom, a former engineering manager, has served as a Scoutmaster and an interpretive guide at the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi. He now teaches birding as a volunteer at a local children's camp. An avid birder, Tom travels internationally to observe birds and makes presentations at birding clubs.

Wayne Seifert

Wayne is an anatomy and zoology instructor at Schreiner University. He was the curator of reptiles and amphibians at the Dallas Museum of Natural History. Wayne is currently researching click beetles of Texas and has over 10,000 insects in his collection. He is also an avid birder and hopes to become more involved in his community.

Mike Shindle

Mike is ranch foreman at the 600-acre Granite Ranch which overlooks Enchanted Rock. A lifelong outdoorsman, he has particular interest in herpetology and ichthyology. Mike is proud to be a part of the first catch & release fishing tournament in Texas.

Bob Spencer

Bob and his wife are long time residents of Fredericksburg. Bob is a professional engineer and an amateur geologist. He is interested in conserving native flora and fauna and how to better identify Texas wildlife species. Bob wants to see a balance returned to our natural habitat. He is also interested in teaching, public speaking, and photography. Bob is a certified TPWD trainer for fly-fishing and fly-tying, and has taught at Camp La Junta Boy's Camp in Hunt for the past five summers and Women in the Outdoors in Junction. Bob wants to volunteer for field surveys and would enjoy speaking to groups, organizations, and children.

KENDALL COUNTY**Joseph Bergmann**

Joseph was born and raised in Boerne, except for a few years spent in Rogers, Arkansas and San Diego California. He worked as an industrial-organizational psychologist conducting personnel research for the U.S. Air Force until his retirement in 2002. Since retirement he has chosen one group of animals to study each year, finally specializing in land snails and freshwater mussels. He has six publications and was included in the Texas Journal of Science. Joseph hopes to establish K-12 and adult classes on mollusks, the second most important group of organisms.

Bob Hansen

Bob has lived in the Bergheim area for over three years. He retired after working twenty-five years in Saudi Arabia. Bob was a maintenance planner for Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil company. Later he was an IDP evaluator working with young Saudi trainees. Bob grew up and also worked in New Mexico and has always been interested in wildlife. Since moving to the Texas Hill Country, he has been learning about his new neighbors...white-tailed deer, fox, raccoons, and that "pretty striped kitty that doesn't smell very nice." He always tries to identify birds at the feeders, which are also much enjoyed by the raccoons.

Reidun Hilleman

Reidun moved to the Boerne area with her extended family about two years ago. She lived in Houston for over 35 years and enjoys the very different environment in the Hill Country, especially the plant life. She and her husband retired from the Houston Police Department after 25 years of service. Reidun worked in the crime laboratory as a forensic analyst and quality assurance manager. She enjoys her retirement, participating in church and school activities, and learning to garden - mostly moving rocks and catching rain.

Paul Pedersen

Paul is a first generation American, born to immigrant Norwegian parents in Brooklyn, New York, at the height of the Great Depression. His father was a Merchant Marine Officer and their home moved to locations on the East and Gulf Coasts before landing in New Orleans. Paul considers New Orleans his home town where he received most of his schooling and married his wife, Miriam. Three of their four children were born in New Orleans. Paul attended Louisiana State University graduating with a degree in chemical engineering. His career was in technical scientific equipment sales and as an equipment planner with a national architectural firm specializing in medical facility design and planning. After living in Houston for 34 years, Paul and his wife now live in Boerne.

Barbara Thomas

Barbara was born and raised in Fort Worth, but spent a great deal of time at her father's ranch in Evant. She graduated from the University of Texas, flew for American Airlines for four years, then married Jim Thomas. They have lived in the country near Comfort since 1976. Barbara and her husband have three grown children and are expecting a granddaughter in one month. Barbara, an interior designer, looks forward to learning from this program and volunteering.

KERR COUNTY

Laura Baker

Laura, a resident of Kerrville, is eager to learn more about our native trees, plants, habitats, and natural resources so that she can share this knowledge with her daughters, family, and her community. She and her husband enjoy hiking Lost Maples State Park to see the magnificent fall foliage and the beauty of the great outdoors. Laura has served as a Girl Scout troop leader for many years and worked as a Career Service Assistant for the University of Houston at Victoria.

Cynthia Burgin

Cynthia moved to Kerrville from the San Antonio area in spring 2008. She served as Animal Cruelty Investigator with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office for 29 years and regularly worked in the field with Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Departments. She has been an instructor for TPWD and other law enforcement agencies throughout Texas and surrounding states. Cynthia managed a family farm in southeast Bexar County where she conducted annual bird counts and recorded data on the endangered Texas Gopher Tortoise and Texas Horned Lizard. She and her husband have traveled the world photographing birds, animals, and plants.

Koy Coffey

Koy has always enjoyed the outdoors. She majored in agricultural education with a minor in horticulture. Koy has been a teacher, a travel agent, an American Airlines trainer, and worked in TPWD state parks and training divisions for ten years. She is now employed by the Texas Wildlife Association working with youth to create awareness of wildlife and wildlife-related issues. She has taken children on first time hunts and works with students who rarely get outdoors. She also does presentations at Kerrville Schreiner Park (KSP) Kids Camp. Koy is a member of Children and Nature and the Texas Association of Environmental Educators. She volunteers at Riverside Nature Center and the KSP butterfly garden.

Valeska Danielak

Valeska lives in Kerrville and has joined us at chapter meetings for many months. She is looking forward to connecting with others who share her great respect and appreciation for the outdoors. Valeska wants to be involved in a program that increases awareness and protects and educates others about the natural world. She loves learning and helping others to learn. Valeska is a clinical social worker at the state hospital and teaches a course entitled "Animals of the World." It is the most attended course on her 22 patient unit. She volunteers at Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area where she helps visitors learn about the life of bats and their benefits to humans.

Mike Kasberg

Mike has a fascinating background that includes many years as a band director in Kerrville and working in wildlife management. He is a member of two local bands. Mike has spent enormous amounts of time enjoying and studying nature. He taught his children and friends about flora and fauna on a canoe trip down the Guadalupe River. He is interested in giving presentations to children to help increase their appreciation and respect for nature. Mike has attended master naturalist presentations and is excited about increasing his knowledge and working on projects.

Marie Miller

Marie lives in Kerrville has been interested in nature since college where she completed many hours of course work in biology and ecology. She and her husband recently adopted three sisters and have enjoyed taking them on their first camping and hiking trips. Marie teaches her children to care for and respect nature, water, and wildlife. She has volunteered in living history and food demonstrations of the 1830s Alamo. Marie is an instructional designer for Citibank creating PowerPoint presentations, web-based training, and more.

Jason Perry

Jason is an East Texas native. He enjoys living in the Hill Country and is a nature enthusiast. He volunteers for Riverside Nature Center camps, the Earth Day Celebration Canoe Crew, and education programs. Last spring, he and his wife, Steph, took their boys on a 3000 mile road trip visiting many state and national parks. Jason is really looking forward to becoming a Texas Master Naturalist.

Stephanie Stone Perry

Steph is a native of Kerrville and loves the Hill Country outdoor experience. She recently finished a two year program working for KISD's Early Childhood Programs as an educational aide. She will home school her two boys this year. Steph serves on the education committee at Riverside Nature Center and has volunteered teaching at camps, girl scouts programs, and Earth Day celebrations for four years.

Jennifer Pittl

You may already know Jennifer; she is employed at Wild Birds Unlimited. She majored in fish and wildlife management and learned about trail maintenance, ornithology, forestry, and similar topics. Jennifer is very interested in ecology and conservation and would enjoy working with children to help instill an appreciation and respect for nature and natural cycles of life. She would also like to create accessible trail systems and participate in habitat restoration.

Darrin Potter

Darrin resides in Ingram and is an avid outdoorsman with knowledge of the wildlife and fish of Texas. He wants to learn more to share with his five year old son and other children. He has explored the caves and petroglyphs on the Pecos River. Darrin, an artist and craftsman, recently returned from a driftwood gathering trip to Louisiana. He showed exceptional commitment to the class by calling from Houston to check on the time for the Kerr County trainees' meeting.

Garry Speir

Garry is a native Texan born in the Rio Grande Valley. He attended high school in Odessa and graduated from Texas Tech University in 1968. He served three and one half years in the U.S. Air Force and worked 36 years in telephone outside plant engineering, including 10 years with SW Engineering in Comfort. He retired from Windstream Communications in January 2007. After taking a couple of years off, Garry felt he needed to make some contribution to society. He has been involved with volkssporting for 30 years and fishing, gardening, and other outdoor activities. Garry determined that becoming a Hill Country Texas Master Naturalist would be a great way to contribute.

Floyd Walling

Floyd grew up in Clute, home of The Great Texas Mosquito Festival. He swam in the bayous with alligators and played in the moss laden forest. His summers were spent working and playing at his grandparent's dairy farm near Gainesville. These experiences gave him a lasting love of nature. Floyd retired from his money management business in Houston and moved to Kerrville two years ago. He is a private pilot and enjoys surveying the Hill Country from the air. Floyd has a good time observing nature from his new home in the Summit which overlooks a 200-acre ranch. He is looking forward to learning about the uniqueness of our area.

Sharon Walling

Sharon grew up in Goose Creek, now Baytown, where she loved playing outside and climbing trees. Her husband, Floyd, still has to persuade her to quit gardening and come inside. After becoming a certified Master Gardener in Harris County and getting her nurseryman's license, she started a career as a native plant landscaper. Her gardens have been featured on television and in magazines and newspapers. Sharon has also lived in California and Hawaii. She knows the importance of preserving the natural environment and has been an environmentalist and organic native plant enthusiast for 30 years. Sharon helped raise funds for the Nature Discovery Center in Bellaire by organizing a home and garden tour. She now volunteers with garden clubs and NPSOT. Sharon is looking forward to learning more about nature and meeting like-minded people.

BELL

Mark Tresselt

Mark is responsible for landscaping and gardening the six-acre Texas Whitehouse at LBJ National Historical Park. He has volunteered many hours with the Master Gardener program and Boy Scouts. Mark enjoys hiking and camping with his family and has worked at Yosemite National Park doing black bear management.

BLANCO

Lou McKaughan (McKawn)

Lou is a Park Ranger at LBJ National Historical Park. She moved from Austin where she regularly volunteered at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. Lou now lives on a 500-acre ranch near LBJ Park. She enjoys vegetable gardening, stargazing, and leading nature tours with civic groups and young people, especially Girl Scouts.

Texas has five state forests and two arboretums ranging from 520 to almost 2,900 acres. Our state forests total 7,500 acres.

Volunteers Needed!

We have a new addition to the activities of project KL-03-B, Guadalupe River State Park (GRSP) in Kendall County.

GRSP is opening a Discovery Center – an exciting “hands on” center - a creative contribution to the park and a great way to volunteer. The Discovery Center is designed to introduce children and parents to the natural resources found in the park. Volunteers are needed to guide visitors in their exploration of the center.



The Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area are assisting with filling volunteer positions. Upon completion of training, the Friends would appreciate a two hour volunteer commitment. The Center is planned to open Saturdays and Sundays from 9a.m. to 5p.m. starting September 26.

Tara Tucker, Texas Parks and Wildlife regional interpretative specialist, will conduct volunteer training September 20 from 1 to 4 p.m.



Contact Tom Anderson at 210-241-1916 or tanderson46@satx.rr.com. If you are unable to attend but are interested in a future training session notify Tom. Our chapter Project Coordinator is Kip Kiphart. AT 09-090

Chapter Camp Out

October 9, 10, 11 at Guadalupe River State Park

Friday October 9

Arrive at GRSP
Check-in 2p.m.

7 - 9 p.m.

Meet, Greet, and Sweets
Sweets provided by the event committee
Bring your choice of beverage.



Saturday October 10

9 - 11a.m.

Fly Fishing Fandango
Bird Tour
Butterfly Hike

11 a.m. - 1p.m.

Lunch Break

1 - 3p.m.

Canoe or Kayak
Wild Walk Bingo
Nature Photography

3 - 5p.m.

Explore on your own and prepare your potluck dish.

5 - 6:30p.m.

Campfire Potluck

Cook Off

Compete with fellow campers in our delicious dish cook off.

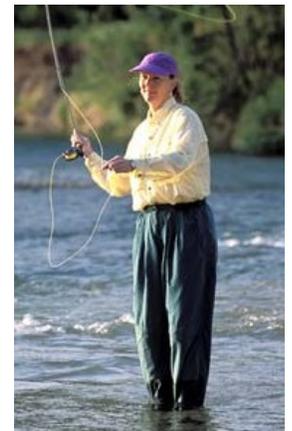
7 - 9p.m.

Stargazing

Sunday October 11

9a.m.

Worship Service



Have you reserved your camp site ?

Make reservations for GRSP at reserveamerica.com or call 512-892-8900.

Ask for a site in the Cedar Sage Loop camping area.

Please let Cathy or Gracie know you plan to attend.

[Gracie Waggener @ gwaggener@flow-apps.com](mailto:gwaggener@flow-apps.com)

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

Down by the Riverside Native Plant Sale & Nature Festival

at Riverside Nature Center

Saturday,
October 3
8a.m. - 3p.m.

Hill Country Master Naturalists
and RNC Members ONLY PLANT PRE-SALE
Friday, October 2, 5 - 6:30 pm
Best selection at 5 p.m.

Free
Admission

NATIVE TREE and PLANT SALE

We have a large variety of trees, shrubs, and flowering perennials that grow well in the Hill Country. Experienced Plant Docents can help you choose plants that will thrive in sun or shade and wet or dry growing conditions. October is the best month to plant trees and shrubs.

BUTTERFLY TENT CONTAINING LIVE BUTTERFLIES

NATURE PRESENTATIONS in the RNC Visitor Center

- 10a.m. Rainwater Harvesting in a Drought with Phyllis Muska and Dan Behringer
- 11:30a.m. Owls: Denizens of the Dark with by Craig Hensley

EXHIBITS

- Native Plant Information with Jim Stanley
- Hill Country Texas Master Naturalists
- Native Plant Society of Texas – Kerrville Chapter
- Kerr County Cactus & Succulent Society
- Hill Country Master Gardeners
- Upper Guadalupe River Authority

REFRESHMENTS

8 – 11a.m. Coffee, donuts, snacks, soda, water for sale – Visitor Center side porch

LUNCH

11a.m. – 2p.m. PawPaw's BBQ and beverages – by the Lawson Store

CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES in the Nature Lab

- 8a.m. RNC grounds tour with Angelo
- 9 - 11:15a.m. Face painting
- 9 - 11:15a.m. Wear your own costume for the "Things with Wings" Parade.
Make and decorate butterfly or dragonfly magnets or a paper plate bat mask
- 11:30 – 12:30 Owls: Birds of the Darkness with Craig Hensley
- 12:40p.m. Angelo's "Things With Wings" Costume Parade
- 1:00 – 2:30p.m. Design a dragonfly mosaic, make a bird feeder, decorate butterfly magnets
- 2:30 – 3:00p.m. Nature Walk with Angelo

Double the funds!

You can help Riverside Nature Center receive matching funds.

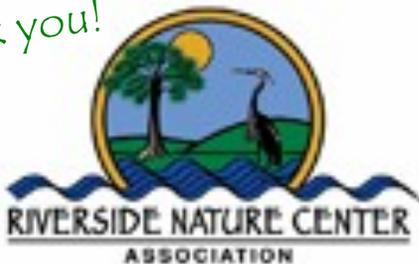
Simply make a contribution to the Nature Center by December 1, 2009.

A generous benefactor has offered to match all individual donations received by December 1.

To take part in this unique opportunity, send your contribution to:

Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos St
Kerrville, Tx 78028

Thank you!



Nature Photography Workshop with David K. Langford



Only four spots open!

November 14 9 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.

A full day of instruction led by respected nature, wildlife, and western-image photographer David K. Langford.

David will share his vast knowledge and discuss techniques in lighting, composition, depth of field, and how to capture your vision of the subject.

Instruction at RNC, lunch, and transportation to Block Creek Natural Area are included.

RNC Members \$135 Non-members \$150

Contact Riverside Nature Center

www.riversidenaturecenter.org or 830-257-4837

AT 09-074

TEXAS NATIVE PLANT WEEK

Effective September 1, 2009, there will be an official Texas Native Plant Week, celebrated annually the third week in October.

During the 2009 Texas legislative session, Representative Donna Howard of Austin authored a bill entitled "An Act relating to a recognition week to celebrate Texas native plants" (CSHB 1739) She introduced the bill at the urging of Faye Tessnow of the Highland Lakes Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Faye Tessnow convinced Representative Howard to introduce this legislation because she felt the official state recognition could serve to emphasize the role of native plants in conservation efforts, support efforts to teach school children about native plants, and make the public aware that native plant species are threatened by loss of habitat and invasion of exotic species.

The third week in October for Texas Native Plant Week will coincide with the annual symposium of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

By Bill Ward

From Sharon Corley



Be N.I.C.E.

(Natives Instead of Common Exotics)

SKELETON-LEAF GOLDENEYE*Viguiera stenoloba*

Skeleton-leaf goldeneye (Resinbush) is a beautiful, drought-tolerant, semi-evergreen perennial that is native to the Edwards Plateau and responds well to our dry, limestone-based soil. It needs good drainage, is cold and heat tolerant, and grows well in sun to part-shade. This plant grows to a mound two to four feet tall and has deep yellow daisy-like flowers from spring to frost.

Skeleton-leaf goldeneye resembles zexmenia and damianita, but has narrow, fine textured leaves. The blooms attract nectar-bees and butterflies. Trimming the spent flowers helps promote blooming. It provides cover, nesting sites, and seeds. The plant is highly deer resistant.

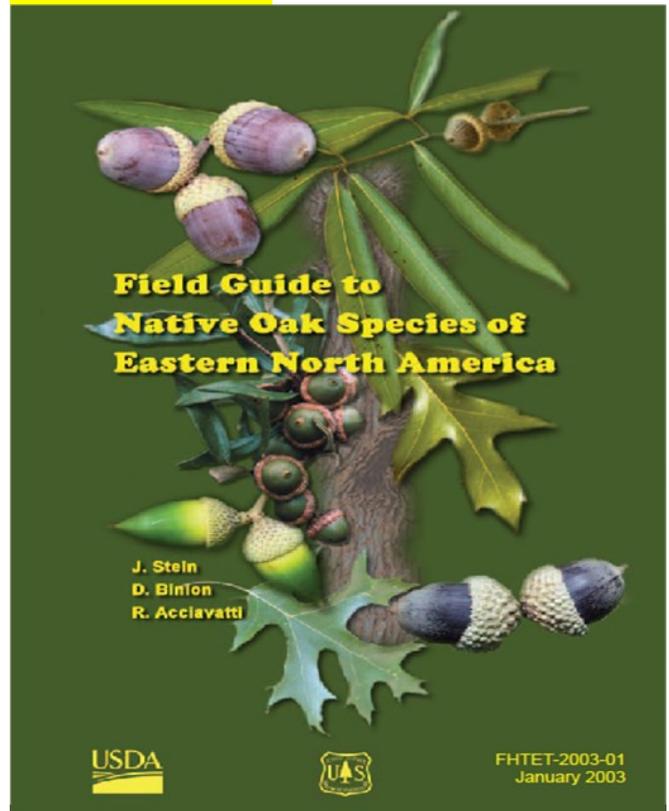
Skeleton-leaf goldeneye will add wonderful color to your native garden year after year. Plants and planting instructions are available at local nurseries.

Sponsored by the Fredericksburg Chapter
of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Participating N.I.C.E. nurseries in Fredericksburg: Dodds Family Tree Nursery, Sutherland Lumber Company, Friendly Natives Nursery & Landscape and Woerner Feed and Garden Supply. In Kerrville: The Plant Haus 2 and Alltex Nursery.

N.I.C.E. (Natives Instead of Common Exotics) is an ongoing NPSOT program encouraging gardeners to plant a native rather than an exotic. Participating nurseries have agreed to stock the plant for the selected period.

From Tom Collins



This field guide includes all 50 oak species east of the 100th meridian which includes most of our area. It is an excellent field guide with county distribution maps and pictures of leaves and acorns. The guide includes two tables of best soil types for red and white oaks, short descriptions of typical habitat, discussions of leaf characteristics, a short glossary, and additional references. Some of the tree names are different than what many of us use, but usually the alternate names will match our local use.

This publication by the USDA was titled FHTET-2003-01. It is no longer published, but can be downloaded in .pdf format. I suggest saving it to the local disk drive - the USDA may decide to delete it some-day. It is over 8 MB and takes a few minutes to download in high speed, forget it with dial-up. If anyone wants [a copy](#) I will be glad to make a cd that may be used to copy to a local drive.

fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/fieldguide.pdf

South Central Texas Water Conservation Conference

“What are we gonna do when the well runs dry?”

October 3, 2009
Washington County Fair Grounds in Brenham.

Dr. Dan Hardin, Texas Water Development Board, will explain the severity of the problem. Susana Canseco, environmental expert and water rights attorney, will discuss issues of ground water "ownership."

Other topics include: Hydrology of Texas, function of Water Conservation Districts, surface water, and rain water collection.

Register before September 15, \$25.00 (lunch included)
after September 15, \$35.00.
Registration form at texas-wildlife.org/files/SCTWCC%20Flyer.pdf.

Renewable Energy and Green Living Fair Roundup

September 25- 27
Market Square
Fredericksburg

This three-day event showcases eco-friendly products and renewable energy solutions.

www.TheRoundup.org

the Central Texas Hill Country
has been named one of the
"Last Great Places"

Texas landowners can do their part to conserve and develop their lands
The Central Texas Seedling Program (CTSP) began in 2004 to help supply Central Texas landowners with high quality seedlings that have stewardship benefits for the region such as:

- forest stewardship wildlife habitat
- reforestation of marginal lands and farmlands
- water quality control
- disease management through diversity

Reserve your Central Texas tree seedlings TODAY!

Bur Oak - 6 for \$54.00

Chinkapin Oak - 6 for \$54.00

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Please contact West Texas Nursery at (806) 892-3572, Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., to place your order.

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE
The Texas A&M University System



What has the drought done to your yard?



**Mostly
Natural & Native**

2009 Tour of ^ Yards Saturday, Sept. 26th 9 am - 1 pm

The 2009 Tour of Yards,

hosted by the Native Plant Society of Texas- Boerne Chapter and the Cibolo Nature Center, will showcase yards ranging in size from 2 to 50+ acres. The yard owners have chosen to preserve most of their land while landscaping only the areas nearest the home. This results in a mostly maintenance-free landscape. Talk to the yard owners, members of the Native Plant Society of Texas and Texas Master Naturalists to learn the many benefits of having Texas native plants in your landscape. This is a rare opportunity to walk private land in Texas and see firsthand and up-close the hidden beauty and resilience of the Hill Country natural landscape.

Directions

Obtain directions to the yards beginning Sept. 22nd at the Cibolo Nature Center or online at www.npsot.org/boerne

Cibolo Nature Center Obtains Additional Acreage

Cibolo Nature Center has completed its acquisition of the Herff Farm, a 62-acre Hill Country treasure, an addition of valuable acreage to the Cibolo Conservation Corridor.

The Cibolo Conservation Corridor is now a 688-acre contiguous tract that will be managed in its natural state for future generations of citizens and citizen scientists.

"We are so pleased to continue to add to the nearly 700 acres of conservation properties in the heart of Boerne," said Carolyn Chipman Evans, CNC executive director. "Our mission

of conservation of natural resources through education and stewardship is exemplified by this most recent acquisition. We hope the Herff Farm will provide both stewardship and educational opportunities in the Boerne community for generations to come."

The Herff Farm will continue to be home to the diversity of natural wildlife that brought this and earlier generations to Boerne. Chipman-Evans explained, "While we've secured the ownership of the farm, we've still got plenty of work to do in paying for it, restoring, and programming it."

For more information about the Cibolo Nature Center, visit www.cibolo.org.

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



Hill Country Chapter



Lindheimeria texana: Texas Star

Board of Directors 2009

John Huecksteadt - President

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William Lummis - 2008 New Class Representative

Jim Stanley - Immediate Past President

Hill Country Texas Master Naturalist
P.O. Box 293972
Kerrville, TX 78029-3972

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
grovesite.com/tmn/hcmn

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

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.

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, denbow@gvvc.com.

T E X A S

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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System