

The Texas Star



Newsletter of the Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter

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T E X A S



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Rare, Endangered,
and Threatened
in the four counties.



Black bear
Ursus americanus
Kendall County

...a constant
volunteer and
companion...
page 9

November
2010



Volume 8
No. 11

NOVEMBER MEETING WILDLIFE TAX VALUATION ABC'S

Rufus Stephens, wildlife biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will describe wildlife tax valuations, the qualifications, and how to get started.

Mr. Stephens works with landowners in Kendall and Comal Counties to improve wildlife habitat on their farms and ranches.



He has a special interest and expertise in helping small acreage landowners manage for a variety of wildlife. He also advises communities, municipalities, and counties about sound management of wildlife and habitats.

Join us at 7p.m,
Monday, November 15 in
the UGRA Lecture Hall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE John Huecksteadt

Believing is Seeing

Several months ago I listened to a National Public Radio interview with an astrophysicist who recounted the story of a geologist friend of his who after seeing a particular geologic structure in a road cut said, "If I hadn't believed it, I wouldn't have seen it." The novelty of the remark stayed with me for months as I turned this little life-gem over and over in my mind. I was beginning to think I understood what the geologist was saying, but the deliciousness of an "aha-moment" was not yet mine to savor.

This past weekend at the TMN State Meeting, I signed up for and went on a field trip to Canyon Lake Gorge. After all, I had never

been there, and having heard so many epic tales about it and seen so many pictures of the 2002 event that this seemed the perfect opportunity to experience it. Besides, Bill Ward was leading the tour. It was a no-brainer to attend.

As I stood there, smack in the middle of a Balcones Ridge fault line, staring at mall-sized slabs of the Glen Rose upended as they broke off and slid toward the Gulf, and trying mightily to sift recent history from geologic time, all the pictures and words, charts and cross sections, trainings and talks coalesced into an "aha-moment." And yes... if I hadn't believed it, I wouldn't have seen it.

So, and it is no surprise, I have been thinking about all the

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THIS MONTH WE HONOR

<u>Milestones</u>	<u>2010 Re-Certification</u>	<u>First Year Certification</u>
<i>Brushed Silver 500 hours</i> Cynthia Burgin	<i>Wood Duck</i> Leanne Beauxbeannes Sherry Egloff Ronald Hood Kip Kiphart Marilyn Knight Milby Moore Sharon Rodriquez Rebecca Shupp Linda Smith	<i>Dragonfly</i> Jim Burgin Ken Dexter Sharon Hixson Tom Hynes

©Garry Speir

Without habitat, there is no wildlife. It's that simple.

Wildlife Habitat Canada

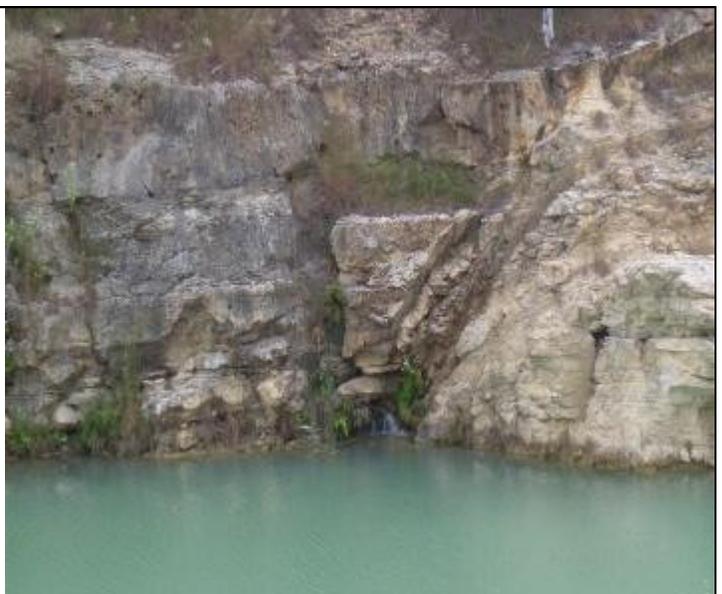
Do you know?



Prior to 1995, wildlife management was not considered an agricultural use of property. Texas voters approved Proposition 11 allowing land with specific wildlife management practices to be considered agricultural use. For many farms and ranches, a wildlife enterprise allows the family to remain in agriculture.

President's Message continued.

"believing" our HCMN chapter has imparted to so many hundreds of people over its short (geology-wise) existence. I have begun to appreciate the fact that I see a kaleidoscope of wonderful sights I would never have seen, let alone appreciated, were it not for the teachers and sharers in our midst who helped me believe. What is more, once you "get it" you begin to see more and more and more, across a broad, colorful spectrum of the natural world. And then you, too, want to share it. Wow...



ADVANCED TRAININGYour chance to learn more

ENCHANTED ROCK GEOLOGY HIKE with Bill Ward AT 10-100

Thursday, December 2, 9:00 - 11:30, Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (ERSNA)

Presenter: Dr. Bill Ward, University of New Orleans Professor Emeritus

Join us for a walking tour of ERSNA's fascinating geology. Limited to 25. Call 830-685-3038 for reservations. Bad weather date: December 10.

WINTER SPARROWS AND WRENS WORKSHOP AT 10-098

Saturday, December 4, 9a.m.-noon and 1-3p.m., Cibolo Nature Center, CNC members \$25/ non-members \$35, plus \$10 box lunch.

Presenter: Byron Stone, expert birder and sparrow specialist from Austin.

This workshop is for intermediate birders, who wish to become proficient at field identification of winter sparrows and wrens. Learn field identification points between savannah and vesper, grasshopper and LeConte's, as well as marsh and house wrens. A short presentation followed by field time.

Limited to 16. Registration required. Call 249-4616.



John Huecksteadt conducts the forbs identification class for the Class of 2010.



Class of 2010 Kerr Wildlife Management Area fieldtrip.

Eye on Nature

Mark Klym, editor of "Eye on Nature," and Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist State Coordinator, requested articles from chapter members for publication in Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's newsletter "Eye on Nature." This print and e-newsletter focuses on getting Texans involved with wild-life and nature.

If you are involved in a project that relates to the Edwards Plateau and would like to contribute articles, please contact me for details.

Thanks for your help with this important effort.

John Huecksteadt, johnh@beecreek.net

[tpwd.state.tx.us/
newsletters/eye-on-
nature/2010fall/](http://tpwd.state.tx.us/newsletters/eye-on-nature/2010fall/)



Life's better outside.™

Hello Class of 2009 Alumni and fellow members:

I appreciated the opportunity to represent you and have been honored to serve as New Class Representative from the Class of 2009.

My challenge and goal for the 2009 class was to complete the courses and field trips without any missed classes or events. I felt that as a class we had truly bonded and had a real sense of being connected as new members of the chapter. (Maybe this was due to the musical seating arrangement that changed weekly so that we got to know our classmates.) The 2009 program was such an incredible experience for me, and I was so excited to help share with others.

One of my duties as Class Representative has been to serve on the New Class Committee. We held numerous meetings and workdays to plan, prepare, and organize in anticipation of new students and their commencement. It was a blessing for me to be part of a team of such dedicated people who work diligently to introduce this wonderful program to future master naturalists. I was responsible for printing the infamous "name badges" which shuffled positions each week. Although not a difficult task, it was tedious, reprinting numerous attempts to get nicknames, initials, etc. correct. This was somewhat of a challenge without having a home computer, but nonetheless, I was glad to be able to get the job done! In addition, I was responsible for the all-important and well-earned "permanent" name badges.

I also helped with pricing and estimation of budget expenses, assisted with scheduling meeting times and facilities, and attended each 2010 class and advanced training session. The 2009 program was a wonderfully rewarding,

fulfilling experience with a wealth of information. It seemed to have just scratched the surface, so attending the classes again has been a real highlight for me and has helped further my understanding and knowledge. As with my class, the hospitality, food, and fellowship were a class favorite. The only drawback has been trying to work off the extra pounds gained from all the delicious refreshments served! The New Class has been a great experience in getting to know a terrific bunch of people who are enthusiastic and eager to learn.

As Class Representative, I attended monthly board meetings, where I felt welcomed and encouraged to participate. I enjoyed witnessing the passion and enthusiasm that went into important decision making. It certainly gave me a better understanding of and greater appreciation for the hard work of the officers and directors and the importance of their positions. It also heightened my awareness of how each director contributes to the vitality of the chapter. On behalf of the members, I would like to thank the board for its dedication and commitment to ensuring the integrity and success of the Hill Country Chapter.

I also served on the Audit Committee and was appointed chairperson. We conducted an audit review at fiscal year-end. Initially, I was apprehensive about serving in this role because I am not much of a numbers cruncher, but with expertise and guidance from our wonderful committee the review went relatively smooth and we were able to transfer records and bookkeeping over to the new treasurer. Since this duty fell due around the end of the year, the biggest challenge was pinning down a time for busy people to meet.

Continued. page 5.

Class representative continued.

As I learn more about our chapter, I am impressed with the level of expertise shown by our members. Many of our top notch presenters are our very own members. I continue to be amazed at their gifts and talents. Their speaking, communication, computer, managerial, accounting, and many other skills benefit our organization.

We are also fortunate to have many members that share their knowledge as mentors. I have found our members to be very helpful and the board to be open to many different requests and inquiries. I was asked if we had speakers that could present school-related topics to students. I checked with the board, they were excited about the opportunity, and a feature article was placed in our newsletter. The response was enthusiastic.

We are blessed to belong to such a wonderful and welcoming group of individuals who are so gracious and share their knowledge and expertise... their passion and enthusiasm is such an incredible inspiration!

Again, thank you, it has been both a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your 2009 New Class Representative. Congratulations and best wishes to the graduating students of the 2010 class. We are elated in welcoming you as members of the Hill Country Chapter!

With warmest appreciation,
Laura Baker

Announcing!

A New Project in Kerr County



Nature Education Programs for School Children

The Salvation Army in Kerrville has an after-school program for 43 students in first through sixth grades. The Kroc Center would like to offer a series of monthly nature education programs led by Hill Country Master Naturalists.

Two Master Naturalists will lead each lesson, assisted by two Salvation Army volunteers who will manage students and help with materials, facilitate hands-on activities, and clean-up.

If you are interested in becoming a team member, and willing to participate in the planning and execution of this nature education program for one or more monthly programs, please contact project coordinator Martha Miesch at marthamiesch@msn.com.
Project ID: KR-13-A

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 inalienable as free speech.

Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, 1949

Hill Country Chapter Holiday Party

A Cowboy Ceilidh



**Lee & Ramona Bass
Conference Center
at Kerr Wildlife Management Area**

Saturday December 18 11:00 to 3:00

“Ceilidh” (pronounced kay-lee) is Celtic for a gathering with song, drink, dancing, and good times.

Break out your cowboy duds and join us for seasonal food and fun. The fare will be mouth-watering and thematic.

Lee Haile will entertain us with song, poetry, and some really tall tales.

Please RSVP along with \$7.00 per head.

You may RSVP with payment at the November 15 chapter meeting or mail an RSVP with payment to Sharon Rodriquez by December 9.

Sharon Rodriquez
841 Woodland Dr.
Fredericksburg, 78624
830-997-4399



We remember:

Donald Robinson

“patient teacher, loyal friend, and fine storyteller”

Don Robinson was a constant volunteer and companion in the Butterfly Garden at Kerrville Schreiner Park. He took charge of the irrigation issues in the garden and was very serious in his responsibilities. In all other ways he was lighthearted and lived for the moment. He had a quick wit and a mischievous spirit which would manifest itself in real playfulness and occasional harmless pranks. He was a patient and thorough teacher, a kind and loyal friend, and a fine storyteller. He will be missed greatly by the volunteers at the Butterfly Garden, as well as anyone who had the good fortune to know him.

Cathy Downs





Rebecca Shupp, Paul Pederson, Reidun Hilleman, Floyd Trefny, Cathy Downs, and Rhoda Reynolds received certification and milestone awards at the October meeting.



Class of 2010



It's important to report your volunteer service hours at the end of each month. Just fill out the Activity Report form, sign and date it, and email to Database Manager Sandy Leyendecker, sandy325@windstream.net.

HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Website Tip of the Month

The calendar on our WordPress website should look familiar to any who use a Google calendar.

To access our calendar at <http://txmn.org/hillcountry>, click on Events, then Calendar. Clicking on any event will bring up details on where and when, and clicking on Map in the 'Where' field will bring up a Google map showing the location of the event.

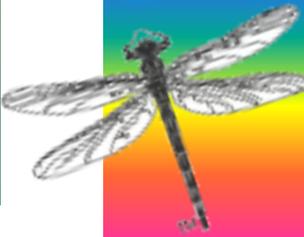
The calendar is also the easiest way to look up AT codes – just go to the date of the class, and the AT code will appear in the subject field. You can copy any event from the HCMN calendar to your own Google calendar.

Questions or comments? Contact Webmaster
P h y l l i s M u s k a ,

HEY, WHAT IS THAT ?
Be the first to identify the creation in the image below and the psychedelic dragonfly is yours next month. [ENTER TO WIN!](#)



Last Month



#1 Lars Nielsen

Honorable mention:
Cathy Downs

Nice Shirt



We have hats and bags, too.

Place your order with Gracie Waggener,
gwaggener@flow-apps.com.

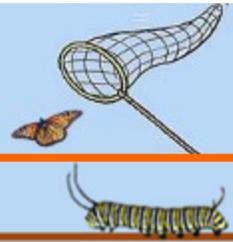
Texas Spotted Whiptail
Cnemidophorus gularis
at Kreuzberg Canyon Natural Area,
Kendall County's newest park.



We do not publish the Texas Star in December.
Look for the big issue in January.

MONARCH NET

The North American network of monarch butterfly monitoring programs



MonarchNet Scientist-of-the-Month

Scientist-of-the-Month is dedicated to highlighting some of the most dedicated and productive scientists and citizen-scientists who collect and/or analyze monarch monitoring data, in any of our partnering programs.

Kip Kiphart, Citizen-scientist from Bergheim, Texas



A retired cardio-vascular surgeon turned Texas Master Naturalist (TMN), Dr. Ridlon (Kip) Kiphart found his passion for monarch butterflies through a rather indirect route. His son worked for a native plant nursery in the early 1990s and introduced several plants to Kip's front yard in Dallas, and not only did Kip get hooked on the native foliage, but he also admired the butterflies that came to the nectar. Captivated by the butterflies, he quickly set out to learn the differences among monarchs, viceroys, and queens. He trained as a Texas Master Naturalist in 1998 and gradually immersed himself in butterfly biology, ecology, and gardening. While volunteering at Cibolo Nature Center (CNC) in 2002, Kip was introduced to the Monarch Larva Monitoring Program by Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP) volunteer Mary Kennedy.

After monitoring eggs and larvae that year, he became an official MLMP Trainer. He has conducted dozens of workshops for CNC and Master Naturalist volunteers throughout Texas, including the popular semi-annual MLMP@CNC Back Porch Review and the TMN annual meeting. Kip is a presenter at the Texas Monarch Monitoring Project semi-annual workshop. Many of the dots on the Texas MLMP map are the direct result of Kip's powers of persuasion and enthusiasm.

In 2008, Kip received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Participation (and a diamond dragonfly pin) for volunteering 5,000 hours with the TMN program. He has monitored monarchs every year since 2002, both at home and at CNC. He is also involved in a variety of Wildlife Field Research projects as a participant and official photographer.

<http://monarchnet.uga.edu/>



Monarch, *Danaus plexippus*



Viceroy, *Limenitis archippus*



Queen, *Danaus gilippus*



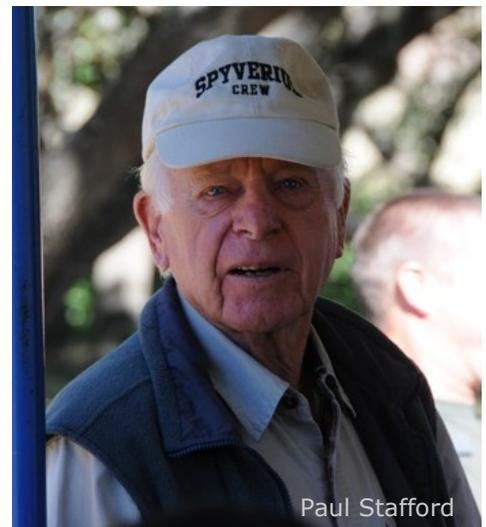
Paul Stafford

Class of 2010 Selah fieldtrip.



Paul Stafford

On the trail of trees.



Paul Stafford

J. David Bamberger greets class members.

Prairie Chickens are Cool

The new website lesserprairiechicken.org aids landowners regarding a rare native bird whose fate is becoming increasingly linked to the future of land use, agriculture, and industry in the Texas Panhandle and Rolling Plains.

The lesser prairie chicken has been a candidate species considered for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act since 1998. Like all rare animals, the bird's existence depends upon a rare habitat, in this case native prairie. Experts say efforts to protect and restore grassland habitat for the lesser prairie-chicken will benefit many other wildlife species, plus provide recreational and ecological benefits for people, and help improve water quality.





from Tom Collins

I spent the last weekend of October in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) looking for butterflies. I have spent many hours in the RGV birding and this was only my second trip to study butterflies. The RGV continues to change so fast that at times I found myself trying to figure out why the road I was on did not go to where I thought it would. My old maps were useless.

If you have a chance to go to the RGV to study birds or butterflies, I recommend the World Birding Centers as your first stop. The best for birds and butterflies is Estero Llano Grande – all the sites have a small entry fee of \$2 to \$3. I was disappointed that both Bentsen State Park and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge are still closed to visitors due to flooding earlier this year. The Bentsen SP gardens are still open, but the Santa Anna gardens are not being maintained and in poor shape.

The North American Butterfly Association gardens are great and have an entry fee of \$10 per day or \$25 for a week pass. Frontera Audubon in Weslaco is very good and has a \$4 fee.

I found 60 butterflies during my three days in the RGV – windy and fairly cool weather limited the butterfly flying time - I missed more lifers than I got, but still had a good trip.

Photo link to some of the bugs and birds I saw:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/pipilofuscus/RioGrandeValley2010?feat=directlink>



Pipevine Swallowtail	Pearl Crescent	Teleus Longtail
Giant Swallowtail	Phaon Crescent	Sickle-winged Skippers
Great Southern White	Texan Crescent	*Brown-Banded Skipper
Cloudless Sulphur	*Pale-banded Crescent	*Potrillo Skipper
Southern Dogface	Bordered Patch	Two-barred Flasher
Orange Sulphur	Painted Lady	Funereal Duskywing
Large Orange Sulphur	Red Admiral	White Checkered-Skipper
Lyside Sulphur	Common Buckeye	Tropical Checkered-skippers
Little Yellow	White Peacock	Laviana White-Skipper
*Silver-Banded Hairstreak	*Band-Celled Sister	Fiery Skipper
Gray Hairstreak	Common Mestra	Sachem
Mallow Scrub-Hairstreaks	*Mexican Bluewing	Whirlabout
Dusky Blue Groundstreak	Tawny Emperor	Orange Skipperling
Cassius Blue	Monarch	Clouded Skipper
Marine Blue	Queen	*Fawn-spotted Skipper
*Red-bordered Metalmark	Soldier	Southern Broken-Dash
*Rounded Metalmark	Long-tailed Skipper	*Violet-Banded Skipper
Carolina Satyr	Dorantes Longtail	*Evan's Skipper
Gulf Fritillary	Brown Longtail	Eufala Skipper
Zebra	White-striped Longtail	Ocola Skipper

These are great places to go anytime you are in the RGV and looking for bird, butterflies, and dragonflies or are interested in seeing beautiful gardens and historical sites:

World Birding Center Sites (9) <http://www.worldbirdingcenter.org/>

Frontera Audubon - Weslaco <http://www.fronteraaudubon.org/>

Valley Nature Center - Weslaco <http://www.valleynaturecenter.org/>



Show your chapter spirit!



GET YOUR GATE SIGN ON!

24"x18" - \$45.00

16"x12" - \$30.00

Email Gracie Waggener
at gwaggener@flow-apps.com



Show us your sign!

As soon as your chapter sign is hung on your gate, take a photo of it and send to denbow@gvtc.com. Look for your sign featured in the newsletter.



MONARCH NET

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS FROM TEXAS



We are especially interested in obtaining data from anywhere in the state of Texas, from all times of the year. There are a number of biologically interesting events that happen in the life cycle of monarchs, which make data from Texas especially valuable.

Monarchs funnel through this area in the fall on their journey to Mexico and they can become concentrated into large aggregations, they can overwinter here in certain areas, and this is the first state they encounter on the return trip from Mexico each spring.

We especially need information on spring and fall migrations (participate in Journey North and MonarchWatch), the level of OE parasites in adults (MonarchHealth), and reproduction of monarchs (Monarch Larva Monitoring Project) throughout the state.

If you need assistance getting started in Texas, join the online Texas Monarch Monitoring Project discussion group at: pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/TXMONARCHMONITORINGPROJECT/

T E X A S



Hill Country Chapter

FIND MORE INFORMATION ON
OUR WEBSITE!

TXMN.ORG/HILLCOUNTRY

Board of Directors 2010

John Huecksteadt - President

Sandy Peña - Vice President

Gracie Waggener - Secretary

Cathy Downs - Treasurer

Steve Dodge - Director of Advanced Training

Cathy Downs - Director of Class Training

Susan Longacre - Director of Communications

Koy Coffe - Director of Membership

Priscilla Stanley - Director of Volunteer Service Projects

Laura Baker - 2009 New Class Representative

Jim Stanley - Immediate Past President

Our chapter meets the fourth Monday of each month (excluding June and December) at 7:00p.m. in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

We gather at 6:30p.m. for a fun social half-hour.

Please join us.

We welcome anyone interested in our monthly topic or the Texas Master Naturalist program.



Lindheimeria texana: Texas Star

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.

Questions about our chapter?

Contact Koy Coffe
Membership Director

kcoffer@texas-wildlife.org

830-792-3070

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, denbow@gvtc.com.

T E X A S



TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

