

# The Texas Star

## Newsletter of the Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter

T E X A S



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Rare, Endangered,  
and Threatened  
in the Four Counties.



Bald Eagle  
*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*  
Kerr County

Some are  
serious pests...  
page 4.

July  
2010



Volume 8  
No. 7

### JULY MEETING .... Habitat Restoration and the Quality of Life

Our chapter is honored to have J. David Bamberger as our guest speaker. Mr. Bamberger will present 'Habitat Restoration and the Quality of Life.'

Mr. Bamberger is recognized as a Hill Country treasure. He established Selah, the Bamberger Ranch, in 1969 on 5,500 acres near Johnson City. The property had been badly abused. Today, after what has been described as the largest habitat restoration project on private land in the state of Texas, the ranch serves as a model of land stewardship. The ranch is dedicated to environmental education, conservation, and research, and has hosted students, landowners, scientists, and conservation organizations. Bamberger Ranch Preserve was formed in 2002 as a private operating foundation to continue Mr. Bamberger's work in perpetuity. To learn more about Selah visit [bambergerranch.org](http://bambergerranch.org)

Articles about the ranch project have been published in *National Geographic*, the *New Yorker*, *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine, *Texas Monthly*, *People*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Historic Preservation*, and many other magazines, newspapers, and newsletters. Mr. Bamberger has been featured on ABC's "World News Tonight" with Peter Jennings, "CBS Evening News" with Dan Rather, CNN, NPR, and PBS.

Mr. Bamberger, 82, co-founded and chaired Church's Chicken until his retirement in 1989. He has served



J. David Bamberger and Corey.

on numerous boards, commissions, and task forces focused on natural resources in the Hill Country. He has received numerous awards honoring his commitment to the preservation and conservation of the Hill Country's unique environment. Recently, his work was recognized with two prestigious awards: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Lone Star Land Steward Award, May 2008, and Sand County Foundation's Leopold Conservation Award, May 2009.

Please join us at 7p.m, Monday, July 26 in the UGRA lecture hall, 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

THIS MONTH WE HONOR			
<u>Milestones</u>	<u>2010 Recertification</u>	<u>Special First Year Recertification</u>	<u>First Year Certification</u>
	<i>Wood Duck</i>	<i>Wood Duck</i>	<i>Dragonfly</i>
	Priscilla Bailey		Jason Perry
	Ruth Coffey		
	Bill Csanyi		
	Bill Frodyma		
	Sandy Leyendecker		

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

Aldo Leopold

Do you know?

"The mountains are cedar bedeckt, the valleys contain delightful prairies with occasional groves of trees of ten or twelve varieties of oaks. The whole valley resembles a park... Yucca and mimosa give a subtropical appearance especially during spring when the snow white blossoms of the yucca lighten the valley. The banks of the streams or bottoms contain poplars, mulberries, walnuts and pecans... "

C. Hugo Claus on the Cibolo Valley at Boerne  
1875

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ..... John Huecksteadt

**Shelter from the Storm**

Until a few months ago I worried every time Spring Creek, in west-central Gillespie County, flooded. I feared that "my" Guadalupe bass were being washed away, never to return. When the creek overflowed the rush of water was very intimidating, making it scary to stand even a few feet from the edge of the torrent. Surely no fish could withstand or outlast that kind of scouring.

Then, a few months ago, Gary Garrett from the Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center in Mountain Home gave a neat program for the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center on native Texas freshwater fish. It was the perfect chance for me to ask, "What happens to the fish during Hill Country gully-washers?" Gary patiently explained that had I not focused on the torrent I would have noticed the water lapping gently at my feet on the flood plain. This is where the bass were taking refuge from the current. "Wow," I thought, "how resourceful of them." I ceased to worry about them any

more. Of course, I have since learned that they do magically appear to my anxious eyes once the waters have settled and cleared enough to see them.

With the recent week of stormy weather, thanks to Hurricane Alex, my concerns have turned to the birds. (What is this bizarre need to have something to worry about?) There are some pretty soggy-looking cardinals plying the skies around our place. Yet, there seemed to be no fewer of any of the birds we were used to seeing at our feeders and flitting between the oaks. In fact, they seemed to have come out in droves to enjoy the sun. So, where do they go when the weather is bad? Do they have some secret place on our land that I have never discovered? Where are their avian storm-shelters?

There is no doubt that animals suffer in really bad weather, like shorebirds during hurricanes, but my money is on Mother Nature taking care of her own. And, like the bass, I suspect most of the other animals have their own strategies for shelter from the storm.

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

- **AT 10-077 LAND MANAGEMENT AND ESTATE PLANNING IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY**  
 Wednesday, July 21, 6:30p.m. - 8:30p.m., CNC Auditorium, CNC members \$20; non-members \$25, pre-registration required. Call 830-249-4616.  
 Presenter: Cibolo Conservancy  
 1st hour: TPWD wildlife biologist Rufus Stephens, The Top 10 Best Practices for Land Management in the Hill Country. 2nd hour: Estate planning attorney Thomas Hall of David Braun & Associates, Best Practices for preserving family land.
  
- **AT 10-080 CANYON LAKE GORGE DOCENT TRAINING**  
 August 27, Friday, River/Lake/Flood  
 September 3, Friday, Biology  
 September 10, Friday, Interpretation  
 September 17, Friday Saturday, Geology  
 September 24, Friday, First Aid  
 This training is offered only once a year. Advanced registration required. Contact [Jaynellen Ladd](mailto:Jaynellen.Ladd@gbra.org) at [JLadd@gbra.org](mailto:JLadd@gbra.org).  
 Members that desire to become Tour Docents must:  
 \* Complete the Canyon Lake Gorge training course, including learning the history and geology of the gorge, first aid and CPR.  
 \* Agree to docent for two tours each month for a year  
 DO NOT attend training if you are unable to fulfill the service commitments described above.

Don't forget!

Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to apply to the chapter's New Class by JULY 16th.

*Congratulations!*

The Hill Country Chapter has reported the highest number of service hours to the State Office for the first quarter of 2010.

*Volunteer hours 3,964.2 hrs*

*AT hours 682.55*

Our chapter leads by over 500 hours.



*Chapter members from Gillespie County are needed to help plan and organize our Holiday Party in December.*

*If you would like to help with this fun-filled event, please contact [John Huecksteadt](mailto:John.Huecksteadt@gbra.org).*

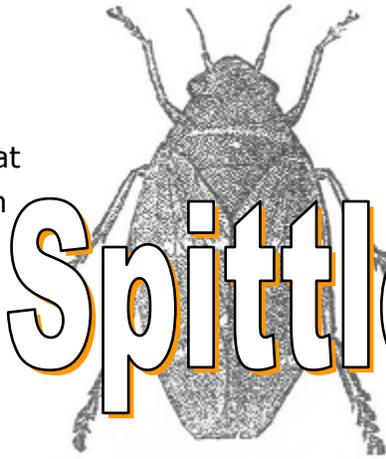
Have you noticed that ball of frothy stuff on some plants lately? There is really an insect inside that mass, and oddly enough it is called a spittlebug.

Spittlebugs are in the order Hemiptera, the true bugs, which includes [cicadas](#), [aphids](#) and other [hoppers](#). All Hemiptera have piercing mouthparts and feed on the plants they inhabit. Some are serious pests of cultivated plants, some even transmit plant diseases, and a few are beneficial.

Adult spittlebugs are dull colored, brown or black, and about one-eighth to one-half inch in length with two pairs of wings. Adults jump from plant to plant, some managing a jump over two feet vertically. Really impressive for such a small insect!

In late summer, the adult lays eggs in plant debris or in stems or sheaths of grasses and other plants. The following spring the eggs hatch as wingless, green nymphs that attach themselves to the plant and begin feeding.

# Spittlebugs



As they grow, they go through five instars, or stages, before becoming winged adults to continue the cycle.

Spittlebug nymphs use the plant sap and fluids for nutrients and to produce a mucilaginous substance,

the spittle, from the anus and epidermal glands. The nymph generally rests head down on the plant and as the spittle forms it flows down and over covering the insect. Air bubbles are produced by movement of the hind legs and the abdomen. The mass of spittle provides protection for the nymph. The spittle has an acrid taste to discourage predators and the foam hides the insect. It also provides a moist environment for the nymph that would otherwise dry out and die.

Although spittlebug nymphs do feed on plant sap, the damage is minimal and populations are usually small. If they do become a garden pest, a strong blast from a water hose is sufficient to dislodge the nymph. If the infestation is severe, removal of plant debris (containing eggs for next year) and tilling the soil will alleviate the problem.



Spittlebug nymphs encased in foam.



Spittlebug nymph with froth partly removed.



Adult spittlebug.



Hard-working Master Naturalists, Ruth Coffey (left) and Bill Csanyi (right) are joined by fellow Master Naturalists and Kendall County Partnership for Parks board members Ruth McArthur and Garry Speir (center) at a recent service day at James Kiehl River Bend Park in Kendall County.

To join the fun, contact project coordinator [Kristie Denbow](#).

### HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER RECEIVES TEXAS TAX EXEMPT STATUS by John Huecksteadt

Our chapter became an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) non-profit organization last March. There was one more step to take in order for us to take advantage of our new status. That step was to file with the State of Texas for exemption from Texas franchise tax and from Texas sales and use tax. We filed with the Comptroller's office in March, using our 501(c)(3) status as justification for the tax exemptions. On June 30, 2010, the chapter received its tax exemptions from the Comptroller. The following two paragraphs are from the letter we received that describe the exemptions:

- Hill Country Master Naturalist is exempt from Texas franchise tax effective July 10, 2009 and from Texas sales and use tax effective March 25, 2010 as a 501(c)(3) organization. The exemption does not extend to hotel occupancy tax.
- The sales tax exemption extends to goods and services purchased for use by your organization. The exemption does not apply if the purchase is for the personal benefit of an individual or private party, or is not related to the organization's exempt purpose. For more information, please see our publication # 96-122, Exempt Organizations – Sales and Purchases.

The complete letter is posted on the chapter website under Chapter Documents as "Texas State Tax Exemption Letter." We will also provide instructions on how to use the exemption when

purchasing goods and/or services for the chapter. It is a good idea if every chapter member reads the letter, basically understands what it means, and knows how to take advantage of the exemption.

Note that this exemption does not excuse us from collecting taxes on most of our sales, except on tax-free days.

Different vendors require different kinds or levels of verification of our tax exemption. You should know how to respond to these requests. For some, our Texas taxpayer number may be sufficient. Others may require a valid tax exemption certificate. The letter posted on the website describes what to do in each case. Our Texas taxpayer number is 32039889210. Vendors that require verification of the exemption may use an online search service located at [http://window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/exempt/exempt\\_search.html](http://window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/exempt/exempt_search.html).

Another number you may want to note is our federal EIN (Employee Identification Number). Do not confuse it with our state taxpayer number. Our EIN is 27-0587584.

If you have any questions about our 501(c)(3) status or our state tax exemption after reading the material on our website feel free to ask any of the board members.

# After The Fire - A Year Later

by Myrna Langford



It was a year ago that a prescribed burn became an uncontrolled inferno fueled by strong winds and a drought-stricken landscape, spreading through several ranches in northwest Kendall County. We continue to observe the benefits from this appropriate land management tool while at the same time acknowledging the potential for unintended consequences. This is an update to experiences on our own ranch since "After The Fire" appeared in the [Texas Star July 2009](#).

Most grasses, forbs, and woodies on the burned hill continue to be vigorous and abundant. The eastern gamagrass is a delight to these eyes! Could invigorated big bluestem with seeds waving high be evident this fall? We



© David K. Langford  
Grasses are highly adapted to fire.

We have observed no flora species new to this site, such as flameleaf sumac and Texas redbud that flourish with fire, but are grateful for the many surviving species listed in the previous article like the endemic, rare Hill Country silverbush.

Regarding our goal to control grazing, we immediately made arrangements to move our cattle to a neighbor's property, however, the drought presented water problems on the neighboring property and we were forced to bring them back. Of course, the cows favored this rich fresh vegetation and hammered the burned hill horrendously until we were able to eventually move them back to the neighbor's pasture. This is an example whereby the best land management intentions are altered by circumstances beyond the manager's control. Following this unplanned grazing damage,

the plants are making another comeback with this year's rains.

Most of the large trees died. Those that did not are severely weakened. They now have been hit hard by [hypoxylon](#) and insect infestation, according to our observations and those of Mark Duff, Texas Forest Service,



Hypoxylon cankers

and David Vaughn, arborist. We continue to protect any root sprouts, particularly on hawthorns, from deer browsing by forming exclosures of burned logs. Reducing the deer population as best we can is another goal. We have resolutely added ACTIVE deer hunting to our previous status of strong supporter. Again, we are reminded that without tall trees, the overall appearance of the land is expected to change to shrubby, the typical documented landscape in the early 1800's as a result of frequent fires. Possibly we have a new black-capped vireo habit in the making?

The insurance company's adjusters continue to maintain that natural resources have no compensatory value. The fences have been repaired since they were ag related. We are grateful to the Texas Forest Service who repaired some of the fire break damages they produced by reshaping unwarranted steepness to prevent



© David K. Langford  
Tree root sprouting and recovery begins.

erosion. Perhaps someday the laws will shift to equating natural resources with ag resources, as was done with the inclusion of wildlife habitat when considering property tax valuations.

# HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

## Website Tip of the Month

Those members who use our website regularly have no doubt noticed a number of changes over the last month or so. The State is moving away from the Grovesite platform for chapter websites, and our login capability has been removed as part of that transition. Consequently, most of the items that were previously in our 'Member Area' have been moved to other areas of the site which do not require a login. So, for example, the list of codes for projects is now downloadable from the 'Volunteer Projects' option under 'Events.' Member FAQ have been combined with the general FAQ under 'More Information.'

Some items with sensitive information, such as the Member List with addresses and phone numbers, are no longer available on the website but will be distributed periodically via e-mail.

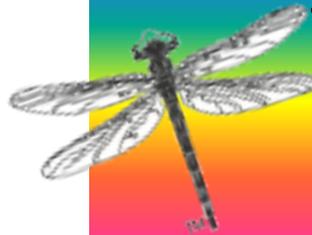
If you need any of the items that were previously on the website and cannot find them, contact our webmaster, Phyllis Muska. Thanks for your patience as we go through this transition period.

### HEY, WHAT IS THAT ?

Be the first to identify the object in photo below and the psychedelic dragonfly is yours next month. [ENTER TO WIN!](#)



Last Month



#1 Garry Speir

Lars Nielsen

Sandy Peña

Rebecca Shupp

## SHOW US YOUR SIGN!



Sandy Peña, Kerr County

### TEXAS LEAF CUTTING ANT





### Think of it - 10 YEARS!

A reception to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the inception of the Butterfly Theater at Kerrville Schreiner City Park was held on Friday, June 18th, 2010 at the Butterfly Garden. The purpose of the reception was to celebrate the anniversary, thank the volunteer team that maintains the garden, and honor the organizations, local nurseries, and private donors who continue to support the project and make the garden a success. Organizations represented were: Hill Country Chapter of the Master Naturalist program,

Kerrville and Fredericksburg Chapters of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), Kerrville Parks Advisory Board, park staff, and the former Friends of the Park. The event was hosted by the Butterfly Garden Volunteers who include Master Naturalist and NPSOT members, seed gleaners, and native plant enthusiasts.

The garden was decorated for the event and light refreshments were served. A brief program explained the history and current projects. A new interpretive kiosk was dedicated to the Kerrville Chapter of NPSOT, the kiosk's sponsor. The Master Naturalist received a formal thank you for their donation allowing additional identification signage to be installed. A bigtooth maple tree, donated by Medina Garden Nursery, was dedicated to the memory of Ernest Tremayne. Priscilla Tremayne, the wife of Ernest Tremayne, attended and was also honored at the reception.

The Kerrville-Schreiner Park Butterfly Theater was designed and installed in 2000 by the Friends of Kerrville-Schreiner State Park. Ernest Tremayne, who passed away in 2007, was responsible for the vision, design, and installation of the garden and the irrigation system. Prior to his death, several Master Naturalists worked with Ernest to plan and implement the layout and flora seen today. Flora consists almost entirely of Hill Country native plants. Nectar and larval plants have been



Butterfly weed shown with Hill Country Chapter sponsored signage.

donated by the Master Naturalist, NPSOT, local nurseries, and private citizens.



Priscilla Tremayne with chapter members Cynthia Burgin and Mary Frances Watson.

The project advocates the use of native plants to attract and sustain butterfly populations. The location was certified as a Monarch Way Station in 2006 by the Monarch Watch Program, an educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas. In 2007, a group of Master Naturalists began to collect data at the garden for the Monarch Larval Monitoring Project. This citizen science project, sponsored by the University of Minnesota, involves volunteers in monarch research by collecting data on larval monarch populations and milkweed habitat. In addition, counts for the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) are conducted annually and submitted to NABA for data research on all butterfly populations. The site also serves as a genetic seed bank for native plants through the activities of the Gleaners of Riverside Nature Center.

The garden is an educational venue for children and adults. It has been a popular spot with the Kerrville Kidz Camp since 2009. Thursday morning's lessons and activities for Kidz Camp have helped educate over 150 school children about the butterfly life cycle and native plants during each summer.

Future projects will include a small rainwater catchment unit, additional signage to enhance a self-interpretive tour, and additional gravel and path construction for walkways.

For more information contact Project Coordinator Cathy Downs, [mzdowns@hctc.net](mailto:mzdowns@hctc.net).



## 36th annual NABA Butterfly Count to be held on July 16.

Help track butterfly populations of North America. Volunteers conduct a one-day census of all butterflies sighted within the count area.

This is a great way to learn butterflies and contribute volunteer hours (use project code CC-09-A).

If you wish to join the count, please [contact Tom Collins](#), count leader. A \$3.00 fee to participate supports the [North American Butterfly Association's](#) national advocacy for butterflies.

KERRVILLE  
July 16/17  
Friday/Saturday as a rain make-up  
Tom Collins  
[towhee@hctc.net](mailto:towhee@hctc.net)



Bordered  
Patch at  
RNC.  
Photo  
by Tom  
Collins

### Riverside Nature Center Weekly Fauna Census 6/18/2010 Two New Species Recorded

Theona Checkerspot *Chlosyne theona bollii*



Rambur's Forktail *Ischnura ramburii*



Tom Collins, Cynthia Johnson,  
Linda Pillow, and Harriet Warren

Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Training  
September 27 - October 1  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
Bexar County Office

Get immersed in the wonderful world of insects and come out feeling like a true entomologist. Meet others like you, who have a passion for bugs! The program will appeal to both Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and other extension volunteers working on insect-related projects. We will discuss the good and bad sides of insects, insect ecology, and how insects can serve as subjects in a variety of gardening and naturalist activities.

Hosted by Molly Keck, Extension Program Specialist, and the Bexar County Master Gardeners.

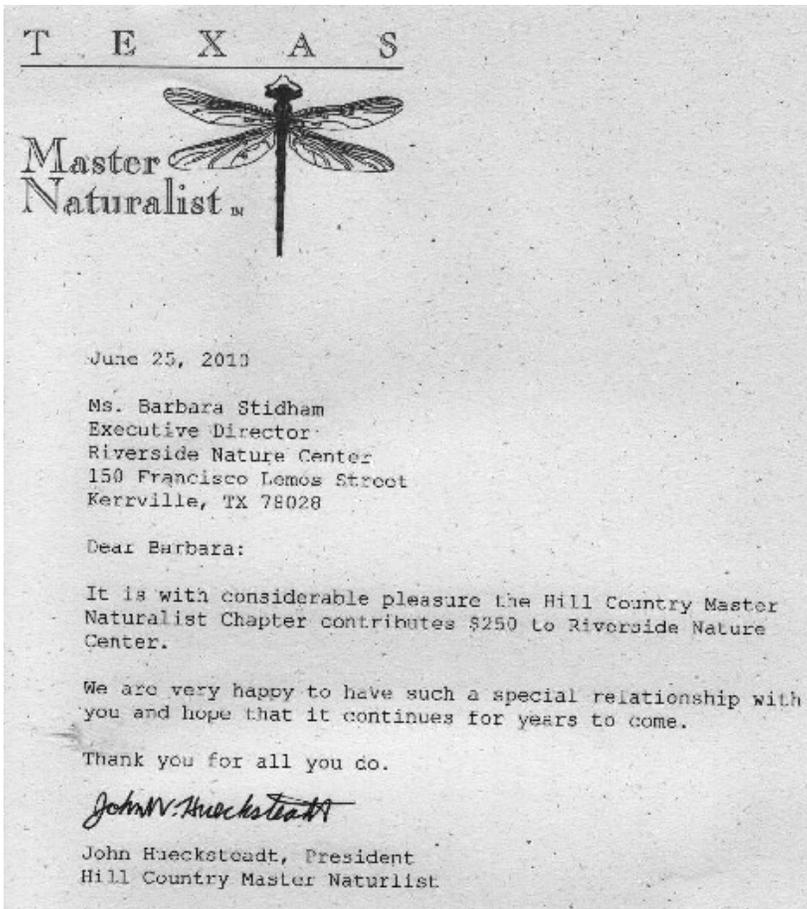
\* Registration fee of \$300.00 includes collecting kit with lots of goodies; lectures; Extension bulletins; three lunches, one dinner, snacks and drinks.

\* Transportation and lodging is on your own.

\* Course is limited to 30 applicants; deadline is July 30.

Contact Molly Keck or Aurelia Hovell at  
[meck@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:meck@ag.tamu.edu) or 210-467-6575.

## CHAPTER DONATES \$250 to RNC



### Reserving Accommodations for the Annual Meeting

All rooms at TBarM Resort have sold out for the Annual Meeting, October 22-24.

An overflow contract has been set up with the Courtyard by Marriott in New Braunfels. Courtyard has agreed to honor the room rates negotiated with TBarM, \$85 per room per night.

#### Courtyard New Braunfels River Village

750 IH 35 North

New Braunfels, Texas 78130

1-830-626-4700/ 1-888-236-2427

Code : TPWD-TMN for the \$85 base rate.

The overnight accommodations and the annual meeting registration are separate expenses.

Meals will be included with annual meeting registration.

Look for registration to become available in late July or early August.



## Junior Naturalist of the Texas Hill Country

### Junior Naturalist Volunteer Project

Riverside Nature Center is expanding its children's education programs to include a wider age range. The Junior Naturalist pilot program will serve kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The program is designed to get children into nature on a regular basis with an emphasis on instilling them with a genuine love and appreciation of what makes the Hill Country so special.

Two 12 session Junior Naturalist classes will begin in fall; one for home-schooled students on Wednesdays and one for any other students on Saturdays. Three field trips are planned: Old Tunnel WMA, a Star Party, and Kerrville-Schreiner Park, plus an optional camp out.

Volunteer opportunities begin now and include: Program Development, Teachers and Substitute Teachers, and Teacher's assistants.

If you would like to participate in this worthwhile volunteer project or have any questions, please contact [Stephanie Perry](mailto:perryfam@ktc.com) at [perryfam@ktc.com](mailto:perryfam@ktc.com). Volunteer Project ID KR-02-A.

from Tom Collins



While watching the butterflies I saw the unusual flight of a Pipevine looking butterfly. It stopped briefly at my banana station giving me time to get my binocular up and on it. Amazing! A first for the ranch - Red-spotted Purple!

This is one of the more difficult species of butterflies to find and I was lucky to have the rotting fruit out. Rotting fruit is one of their preferred nectar sources, along with carrion, tree sap, and dung.

This butterfly mimics the Pipevine Swallowtail in appearance, but not in flight as it has a graceful and slow flight which gave me an indication it was a Red-spotted Purple.

A really beautiful butterfly - look it up in your field guides.

## *A Thank You to Chapter Volunteer Judges*

My thanks for your efforts on behalf of the 2010 Kerr County Water Saver Landscape Contest.

The volunteer judges completed scoring the eleven entries on May 24 with a drive-by to view a select number of the landscapes entered. The judges did a great job beginning with improving the criteria used for judging as well as updating the entry form questions.

It confirmed my earlier decision to have persons with different talents and experiences come together to judge landscapes. I hope those who functioned as a judge for this event gained from their experience and enjoyed the time spent judging landscapes.

Thanks to your organization for supporting a water conservation event.

David Lipscomb

Volunteer judges representing four organizations judged landscapes for the spring 2010 Kerr County Water Saver Landscape Contest.

1. Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
2. Hill Country Master Gardeners
3. Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
4. Kerrville Board of Realtors

Prizes were awarded on how well five criteria were implemented in front landscapes.

- OVERALL APPEARANCE
- APPROPRIATE PLANT SELECTION
- EFFICIENT WATER MANAGEMENT
- MULCHING
- LANDSCAPE FERTILIZATION

<http://hgcd.org/contest/winn.htm>

The *Texas Star* needs you!

Send news, information,  
and photos to Kristie at  
[denbow@gvtc.com](mailto:denbow@gvtc.com).

**ON-LINE RESERVATIONS ARE NOW FREE!**

TPWD is pleased to offer Internet capabilities for checking site availability and making reservations for Texas State Parks.

This service is available 24-7.  
[texas.reserveworld.com/](http://texas.reserveworld.com/)



## A Call for Volunteers, Ideas, and Resources from Lori Pressler, Science Instructor at Heritage School

I have come to recognize what a blessing it is to teach science in a diversified environment such as the Hill Country with individuals knowledgeable about it. I appreciate this opportunity to start a dialog with members of the Texas Master Naturalist program.



I am developing curriculum for my 9<sup>th</sup> grade Environmental Science class. **Environmental Science** is the study of how the natural world works, how our environment affects us, and how we affect our environment. We need to understand our interactions with our environment because such knowledge is the essential first step toward devising solutions to our most pressing environmental problems. Fostering stewardship is an important aspect of my goal. Even though Environmental Science is the name of the course my bent is more towards traditional 4-H/agriculture objectives with a goal of fostering an awareness of our "environmental footprint" and environmental stewardship.

The Master Naturalist program would be a great resource for the class. Resources could include, yet not be limited to, guest speakers, guided field trips, and loaning of teaching materials. I have developed a geological scavenger hunt for Enchanted Rock and would love to enrich it. This year I purchased soil micro and macro nutrient testing kits from LaMotte. I will budget for water testing kits next year. I would love to learn to maximize their usage. Presently the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip is a four-day trip to west Texas to explore McDonald Observatory, Balmorhea, Davis Mountains National Park, Modesta Canyon in the Chihuahuan Desert, and Sonora Caverns. I know I could enrich that program and tie that experience into their science class. This year I also acquired an Orienteering Kit.

Any ideas from chapter members are welcome.

Lori Pressler  
Science Instructor  
Heritage School of Fredericksburg  
[pressler@heritage-school.net](mailto:pressler@heritage-school.net)  
<http://www.heritage-school.net/>

Members who volunteer as Master Naturalists at Heritage School use Volunteer Project ID HC-01-C.

### Target Opens Recycling Centers in All 1,740 Stores



Target announced a massive nationwide recycling initiative with centers at the front of each of its 1,740 U.S. stores. The recycling stations will accept aluminum, glass and plastic beverage containers, plastic bags, MP3 players, cell phones, and ink cartridges.

### Rust-Free Tool Box

Battle rust-causing moisture with this surprising tool kit addition: charcoal briquettes. These



barbecue staples absorb dampness, common in garages and basements, where tools are often stored. The briquettes tend to shed dust, however, so place them in a fabric bag before adding them to your box of tools.

## Participate in the Annual Meeting

Four opportunities exist for members to contribute to and be a part of the agenda for the Annual Meeting October 22-24 at TBarM Resort and Conference Center in New Braunfels.

### 1. PRESENT A TMN VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECT SUBMISSIONS

Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers can present and discuss a specific project they are working on within their chapters.

### 2. PRESENT AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION TO A PROBLEMATIC CHAPTER OCCURRENCE-A CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Has your chapter implemented some new ideas and techniques to address a problematic occurrence within your chapter? If so, consider sharing your chapter-changing success story and experiences with other chapters.

### 3. ORGANIZE AND/OR LEAD A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION TOPIC

Organize and/or lead a Discussion Topic with the help of the State Program leaders. Roundtable Discussions offer an opportunity as idea-sharing or idea-generating sessions.

### 4. TMN ANNUAL MEETING SHORT SESSION

Are you or a group of members in your chapter, experts on a certain subject? Present a one-hour Advanced Training Topic applicable to members of any chapter.

Everyone will be notified as to whether their submission will be placed on the agenda or not. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IN ALL CATEGORIES IS SUNDAY, JULY 18.

Send your submissions/abstracts to Michelle Haggerty at [mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu). An email reply will be sent to confirm successful submission by the deadline.

# Texas lakes are under attack!

Texas is one of the best places in the country to boat and fish. But this may not always be true. Right now our lakes, rivers and bays are under attack by invasive species. But you can prevent the spread of invasive species by always following these three easy steps: clean, drain, and dry your boat, trailer, and gear every time you leave the water..

Watch this short video to find out how invasives are threatening our lakes and how you can help stop the spread!



Click the following links to access checklists for cleaning your boat of zebra mussels and giant salvinia.

[Zebra Mussels Checklist](#)

[Giant Salvinia Checklist](#)

T E X A S

Master  
Naturalist™



Hill Country Chapter

FIND MORE INFORMATION  
ON OUR WEBSITE!  
[grovesite.com/tmn/hcmn](http://grovesite.com/tmn/hcmn)

### *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

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

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

Please join us.



**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

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*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@gvvc.com](mailto:denbow@gvvc.com).

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