



T E X A S



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Rare, Endangered,
and Threatened
in the four counties.

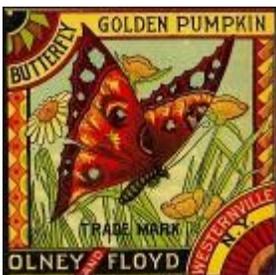


Hill Country
Wild Mercury
Argythamnia aphoroides
Gillespie County

Members keep
our chapter
strong...

Page 4.

October 2011



Volume 9
No. 10

OCTOBER MEETING ... TEXAS ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS CLASSIFICATION

Duane German and Amie Treuer -Kuehn will describe an ambitious study to update and extend the detailed vegetation mapping of Texas.

Begun in 2007, the current study is providing an unprecedented level of accuracy in producing a new land classification map.

New work focuses on a comprehensive ecological description of major systems and subsystems within the state including correlations of soils, hydrology, geology, etc.



The project builds on groundbreaking work by TPWD in the 1970s when NASA (Landsat) satellite technology first became available. Equally important is the "ground-truthing" element whereby field biologists visit the site. Emphasis will be on the Hill Country region where results are largely complete.

Join us Monday, October 24 at 7p.m. in the UGRA Lecture Hall. Arrive around 6:30 to socialize with members and guests.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ... Phyllis Muska

Dragonflies and Braggin'flies

It is beginning to feel like fall, and what a relief! We had a very welcome inch of wet stuff in late September at our place - enough to green up a few sprigs here and there, anyway. And I thought most of our frostweed was dead or dying, but it has perked up enough to attract lots of monarchs.

Although spring is the season usually associated with rebirth and renewal, fall always feels more like a time of new beginnings to me, after surviving another Texas summer.

In many cultures, the dragonfly symbolizes renewal and new beginnings, so it is appropriate that it is our Master Naturalist symbol. Someone in the new class asked why the dragonfly was selected for the MN logo, and why the Cyrano Darner in particular. Here is what

Michelle Haggerty, state coordinator, had to say: Darners are large, strong-flying dragonflies, usually brightly and distinctively patterned in blue and green. The Cyrano Darner is named for its long greenish-blue forehead, reminiscent of the nose of the literary character Cyrano de Bergerac.

The Cyrano Darner was chosen as the MN program logo for many reasons. First, dragonflies in general are beautiful, interesting creatures. They are widely distributed, recognizable, and accessible. The size of the dragonfly made it easy to use in a logo, and the darner family has the most classic dragonfly shape. In addition, the Cyrano Darner has beautiful coloration. The beauty of the detail, the structure and the venation of the wings in the Cyrano

THIS MONTH WE HONOR



<u>Milestones</u>	<u>2011 Re-Certification</u>	<u>Special First Year Re-Certification</u>	<u>First Year Certification</u>
<i>Polished Silver 2500 Hours</i>	<i>Horned Lizard</i>	<i>Horned Lizard</i>	<i>Dragonfly</i>
John Huecksteadt	Leanne Beauxbeannes	Carolyn Bean	Stephen Clyburn
	Anne Cassidy	F.E. Baxter	Paul Stafford
<i>Bronze 250 Hours</i>	Stephen Dodge	Stephen Clyburn	Lisa Williams
Leanne Beauxbeannes	Ruth McArthur	Dean Schmelling	
Glenn Randow	Jack Millikan	John Sloan	
	Virginia Sawin	Lisa Williams	

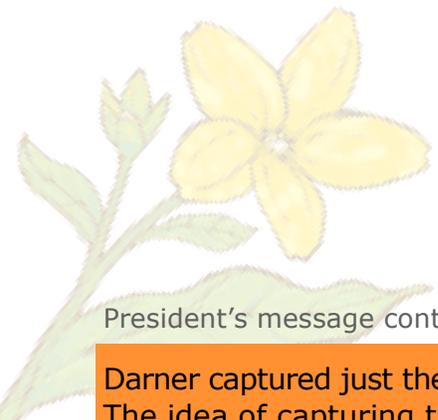


Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It's not.

Dr. Seuss

Do you know?

Ground truthing scientists collect detailed calibrations, measurements, observations, and samples of predetermined sites that either complement or dispute airborne remote sensing data collected by aerial photography, satellite sidescan radar, or infrared images. Without ground truthing verification, data from space is hypothetical at best.



President's message continued.

Darner captured just the right look for the logo. The idea of capturing that much detail in a creature that small says a lot about our love of nature and the value of scientific accuracy. If you look closely, you will see that the logo is not just a pretty drawing. The image is true-to-life because it is a scan of an actual Cyrano Darner, using a technique which refrigerates dragonflies to induce dormancy. They are then scanned using a flatbed scanner and a mouse pad with a hole cut in it to keep from crushing the specimen. When the scanning is completed, the dragonfly is released unharmed. The creativity involved in capturing accurate images with true-to-life color and meticulous attention to detail seemed like a great attainable example of what a naturalist does. So when the

program was implemented statewide in 1998, the Cyrano Darner was chosen as the logo, with the dragonfly pin selected to mark our milestones in volunteer hours. The organization wanted a symbol that would not be confused with those of other nature organizations, and at the time dragonflies were not seen very often in logos. Of course, dragonflies are everywhere now, so it looks like we started something!

* * *

With fall comes our annual election of board officers. This will take place at our November meeting, November 21. (Note that this meeting has been moved up from the fourth Monday to the third Monday.) For details, see the brief article later in this newsletter.

ADVANCED TRAINING

AT11-135 SEEDS:THE FRUIT OF THE MATTER

Tuesday, October 25, 7-8P, **United Methodist Church**, Fredericksburg
Fredericksburg Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas October meeting. Learn practical methods to collect, clean, and store native plant seeds. Ready to have fun and get hands dirty? Gain hands-on experience cleaning seeds with Barbara Lowenthal and Julie Clay.

AT 11-123 12TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE MEETING & ADVANCED TRAINING

October 21,22,23; MO Ranch; Hunt

AT 11-061 GRASS ID

Wednesday, October 26, 1P, Texas Lions Camp, free
 Jim Stanley will provide knowledge and identification tools for native grasses.

AT 11-122 TEXAS WILDSCAPES AND GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Thursday, October 27, 10A-3P, **Kerr AgriLife Center**, Kerrville
 Kelly Bender of TPWD teaches **Texas Wildscapes** and Gardening for Wildlife.

AT 11-102 TEXAS INVASIVE PLANT AND PEST CONFERENCE

November 8,9,10; **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**; Austin
 Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council hosts the fourth statewide conference on invasive species. Visit the 2011 Conference Website at texasinvasives.org.

AT 11-120 AQUATIC ENTOMOLOGY AND FISH BIOLOGY, AND FLY FISHING CLINIC

Saturday, November 12, 10A-3P, **LBJ State Park**, Stonewall
 Aquatic Entomology & Fish. Please bring a sack lunch, water, and wear comfortable clothing for indoor and outdoor activities.
 Registration: Required. Contact Guy Harrison at gunyon003@aol.com or 830-895-8696.



Chapter Elections Coming Up

Remember that each November is election time for our chapter. We vote at the November monthly meeting on our slate of candidates. We present the slate to the chapter at the regular October chapter meeting. **This year that's on Monday, October 24.**

Nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to the election at the November meeting.

This year candidates for the 2012 officers are Priscilla Stanley for president, Tom Hynes for vice president, Anne Cassidy to continue as secretary, and Floyd Trefny for treasurer.

During this time the nominating committee also assists the future president by identifying capable and interested volunteers for board directorship positions.

Serving on the board of directors is an important role and an enjoyable way to get to know your fellow chapter members. If there is an "HC-01-A" volunteer code in your future please tell John Huecksteadt of your interest sometime in the next month.

Thanks to Julie Clay, Phyllis Muska, and John Huecksteadt for serving on the 2011 nominating committee.

Class of 2011

ANNE GRAVES

Anne was raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her family instilled a love of nature early with vacations to the beautiful national parks. She was an active Girl Scout which inspired further nature study. After university, she taught high school biology and environment science in Lake Charles, Louisiana. She later taught human anatomy and physiology at university level. She married a good Texan, moved to Bandera, and professes to love the Hill Country.

Anne is a Master Gardener who loves to learn new things and is looking forward to becoming a Master Naturalist with some of her Master Gardener friends.

Anne was recently busy taking care of family in Nashville, Tennessee. Sadly her aunt, Jenette Ruby, died. Anne would like her fellow classmates and chapter members to know about her aunt. She was a prominent citizen, supporter of wildlife and conservation in Tennessee, and served on boards related to this interest. The Wildlife Association in Tennessee provided a funeral escort and the Grand Ole Opry will give a special commemorative program honoring her. Anne Graves can be proud of her great gene pool.

CAROLYN PYEATT

Carolyn is director of the biology lab at Schreiner University. She has numerous interests that intersect with Texas Master Naturalist concerns.

Her position in the biology lab and her camping experiences along the Oregon and Washington coastlines excite her about being in the class.

Carolyn's skills in public speaking, computer technology, and teaching will support the Hill Country Chapter's mission to educate the community about environmental awareness.

Members keep our chapter strong!

Sandy Leyendecker, data manager, reports our Hill Country Chapter has contributed an amazing **15,124.3 volunteer service hours** for the period of January 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011.



Call 811 Before Digging Near Utility Lines

Know what's below, call before you dig.

Texas811 is a one-call notification service that works to prevent damage to buried utilities.

Each year, more than 60,000 damaged utility lines are reported. Many of these damaged lines are due to landowners digging on their own property or working near the right of way.

When you call 811, you will be asked for the location and description of the project. The utility companies will locate and mark the approximate location of utility lines within 48 hours. Once lines have been marked, you can begin to carefully dig, taking care to avoid damage to the marked lines.

Visit www.texas811.org.



Koy Coffer, Mary Frances Watson, Ruth McArthur, and Norma Bruns recertified and earned pins in September.



Koy Coffer

We had 62 members and 10 visitors at our September meeting. Vice President Bob McKinley, pictured with speaker Justin Foster on the first row, has done an outstanding job selecting speakers and topics.



Koy Coffer

Our hard at work "Retail Shop" crew.



Mike Quinn

Kip Kiphart examines an agave.

handheld apps for naturalists



NatureFind



MyNature Animal Tracks



Wild Mushrooms of North America and Europe



What's your favorite app?
Share it with us at denbow@gvtc.com.



Shirt and Merchandise Sales

We have t-shirts, field shirts, and women's polos. Our t-shirts come in new colors and have a friendlier cut.

Our caps have a new style and design and our tote bags look great.

We now have a vehicle window decal sporting the dragonfly logo.

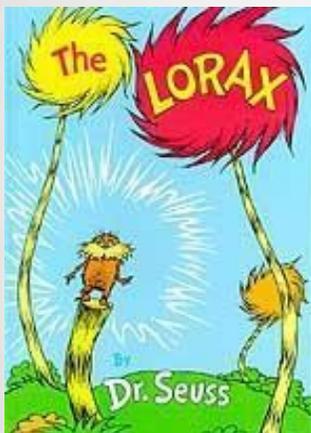
Look for our popular chapter items at meetings and class days.



The Hill Country Chapter Merchandise Team



Nature of Reading BOOKS FOR NATURALISTS



The Lorax
Theodor Seuss Geisel
1971

*The more you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.*
Dr. Suess

A new fauna blog by Gideon Lincecum chapter member Mary Evelyn Sorrell
<http://faunaexplored.wordpress.com/>

Mary says, "I hope Master Naturalists all over Texas will become subscribers and share what they care about related to fauna. I hope Master Naturalists and all other nature lovers will enjoy and benefit from it as contributors and readers."

State Water Plan Draft Available for Public Comment

The Texas Water Development Board's draft 2012 State Water Plan is available for public review and comment through Oct. 25.

http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/state_water_plan/2012/draft_2012_SWP.pdf

Courtesy of Cindy Anderson, who produces an excellent newsletter, and our friends at the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Keep Your Trees Alive

With a 10-minute Make-It-Yourself DRIP IRRIGATION LINE

by Cindy Anderson



←
SPRINKLERS ARE NOT ALLOWED UNDER CURRENT WATERING RESTRICTIONS, but who has time to hand-water every tree?

THE ANSWER: DRIP IRRIGATION!
→



Here is a simple way to make 2 drip lines that you can move from tree to tree.

Step 1: Buy a 50-foot roll of 1/2" black poly tubing (I got this at Home Depot for \$6.87.)

Cut it in half — a 25-foot length works well, and will make two lines! Buy fittings for the ends. (See below.)



Step 2: Use an AWL (or ice pick) to poke holes every 3 to 6" in a straight line down the tubing.

Don't poke all the way through — just through this top layer. You will later turn it upside down.



←
Step 3: Close off one end with this handy fitting.

Step 4: Attach a hose connector to the other end. There are several brands and styles of these fittings available.

→
Coil loosely around root zone with holes facing down.



→
Water slowly and deeply and check often for runoff, especially on slopes.

FINISHED PROJECT
→



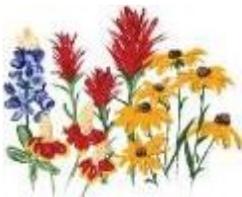
Texas Native Plant Week



Why Native Plants?

Native plants are a good choice whether you are planting a tree, shrub, flower, vine, or grass because they are **acclimated to your local climate** conditions and soils, provide habitat for wildlife, **typically require less water** and maintenance once established, and **do not rely on chemical fertilizers and pesticides** to thrive.

These homegrown plants give us a sense of place and help maintain the region's wide variety of flora and fauna. txnativeplantweek.org



THE ART OF GROWING WILDFLOWERS

David Winningham, owner of Natives of Texas Nursery, will speak at Riverside Nature Center,

Tuesday, November 8.

Refreshments and socializing at 4:30; meeting at 5P.

This free program is provided by the [Kerrville Chapter](#) of the Native Plant Society of Texas as a part of its monthly series. Everyone is welcome!

From Tom Collins



The greater roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus* decided the water oasis we installed at the ranch is the preferred spot to hang out near - yesterday he decided to strike a pose.



Carolyn Bean

Carolyn Bean photographed this female Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* on *Sesbania drummondii*, rattlebox, at James Kiehl River Bend Park.



Reidun Hilleman

Reidun Hilleman saw this black-tailed jack rabbit *Lepus californicus* slip in to get a drink at the Cuckoo blind at Kreuzberg Canyon Natural Area.





Monarchs are pouring through Texas. They are particularly abundant across much of the Trans-Pecos.

Interactive map of monarch overnight roosts Fall 2011

learner.org/jnorth/maps/monarch_f11_roosts.html

Here's a static Texas migration map showing the general timing of peak passage

texasento.net/fall_peak.htm

Texas is obviously in the grips of an exceptional drought and the conditions are only moderately less severe in Mexico. North American Drought Map at bit.ly/ohSpW2

The monarchs passing south through Texas now are the *exact same* monarchs that will return next spring when we will still be under drought conditions.

Please help document how they deal with these conditions by sending me any observations you have of significant monarch movements. I am also looking for foraging observations.

Thanks in advance,

Mike Quinn, Austin

entomike@gmail.com

Texas Monarch Watch, est. 1993

texasento.net/dplex.htm

Dr. Lincoln Brower visited the Texas Hill Country, October 10-13, collecting monarchs to measure lipid content during Texas' historic drought. Photos and captions by Mike Quinn.



Lincoln Brower and Kip Kiphart examine a monarch larva that Monika Maeckle found on swamp milkweed *Asclepias incarnate* at her ranch. Texas county records per USDA: 1.usa.gov/mZFSwO



Monarchs, other butterflies, honey bees, and buprestids were actively nectaring on frostweed. Frostweed *Verbesina virginica* is an important fall-blooming monarch nectar source. Texas county records per USDA: 1.usa.gov/pn0QjN
Common buprestids: texasento.net/flavomarginata.htm



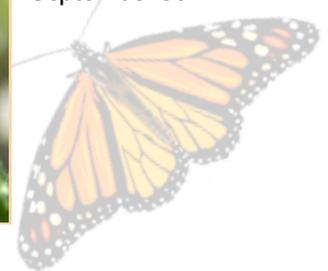
Kip with a monarch to be taken to Lincoln's lab to measure it's lipid mass. Monarchs should be putting on significant mass at this time: [//bit.ly/nHYQVF](http://bit.ly/nHYQVF)



from Garry Speir



Monarchs nectaring on frostweed *Verbesina virginica* and cowpen daisy *Verbesina encelioides* at Riverside Nature Center during the weekly census September 30.





Check out the terrific results of the first bird censuses at **Kreutzberg Canyon Natural Area (KCNA)** and **James Kiehl River Bend Park (JKRB)**. Results are submitted to Ebird. Carolyn Bean conducts counts on third Tuesdays at KCNA (KL-04-D) and fourth Tuesdays at JKRB (KL-04-B). Email Carolyn at curione@yahoo.com to participate.

Kreutzberg Canyon Natural Area, Kendall, US-TX
Sep 20, 2011 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM
Protocol: Area 117.0 ac

Comments: Initial bird census in Kreutzberg
28 species (+2 other taxa)

Black Vulture 2
Turkey Vulture 2
White-winged Dove 12
Mourning Dove 9
Greater Roadrunner 1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1
Ruby-throated/Black-chinned Hummingbird 1
Golden-fronted Woodpecker 5
Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1 heard
Empidonax sp. 3
Eastern Phoebe 2
Great Crested Flycatcher 1
White-eyed Vireo 1
Western Scrub-Jay 4
Carolina Chickadee 5
Black-crested Titmouse 7
Carolina Wren 8
Bewick's Wren 4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1
Eastern Bluebird 1 heard
Northern Mockingbird 1
Yellow Warbler 2
Wilson's Warbler 6
Field Sparrow 1
Lark Sparrow 2
Summer Tanager 1
Northern Cardinal 21
Baltimore Oriole 1
Lesser Goldfinch 1
House Sparrow 1

James Kiehl River Bend Pk, Kendall, US-TX
Sep 27, 2011 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Protocol: Area 25.0 ac
Comments: Initial bird census for the park.
35 species (+1 other taxa)

Turkey Vulture 1
American Kestrel 2
White-winged Dove 40 Fly over
Mourning Dove 7
Inca Dove 1 Heard
Greater Roadrunner 1
Ruby-throated/Black-chinned Hummingbird 1
Golden-fronted Woodpecker 1
Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1
Least Flycatcher 1
Eastern Phoebe 5
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 6
Loggerhead Shrike 1
White-eyed Vireo 2
Blue Jay 1 Heard
Barn Swallow 9
Carolina Chickadee 6
Black-crested Titmouse 5
Carolina Wren 6
Bewick's Wren 2
House Wren 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1
Eastern Bluebird 2 Heard
Northern Mockingbird 3
Black-and-white Warbler 1
Nashville Warbler 2
Common Yellowthroat 2
Yellow Warbler 1
Black-throated Green Warbler 2
Wilson's Warbler 6
Clay-colored Sparrow 1
Field Sparrow 2
Northern Cardinal 12
Brown-headed Cowbird 1
House Finch 4
Lesser Goldfinch 6

Amie's and Duane's Ground-truthing Team and Sites.



Amie Treuer-Kuehn ground-truthing at site 181.



Llano uplift live oak site 872.



Ground-truthing Borrichia Flats.



Barren site 1790.



Central Texas floodplain hardwood forest site 504.



Llano grassland site 1745.

Your Parks Need Your Help



Drought and wildfires of historic proportion have ravaged Texas state parks this year. Parks also have reduced budgets and reduced services as a result of legislated budget cuts. About a quarter of the agency budget goes to the State Parks Division, where 23 of the 93 Texas state park sites will see some type of reduction in staff, operations or both. About 10 of these parks will operate fewer days. Read the detailed news release about the Texas Parks and Wildlife 2012-2013 budget.

"These are challenging times for all state agencies, but if those who love wildlife and parks feel moved to help, there is an easy way to do so," said Carter Smith, TPWD executive director.

Beginning January 1, 2012, any customer renewing a motor vehicle registration will have the option to donate \$5 or more for state parks. Drivers can donate when registering by mail, at their county tax office, or online in counties which offer online payment. The Texas Comptroller estimated this will earn about \$3.2 million for the biennium, and this revenue must be raised to avoid further reductions in park operations and staffing.

We need your help to keep parks open and maintained. Your entrance, camping, and park pass fees along with your park store purchases help directly fund parks. Visit texasstateparks.org/help to learn all the ways you can help state parks.

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



Hill Country Chapter

a 501(c)(3) corporation

Board of Directors 2011

Phyllis Muska - President

Bob McKinley - Vice President

Anne Cassidy - Secretary

Cathy Downs - Treasurer

Steve Clyburn - Director of Advanced Training

Lisa Williams - Director of Class Training

Susan Longacre - Director of Communications

Koy Coffey - Director of Membership

Reidun Hilleman - Director of Volunteer Service Projects

Vern Crawford - 2010 New Class Representative

John Huecksteadt - Immediate Past President

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
TXMN.ORG/HILLCOUNTRY

We meet 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. Join us at 6:30p.m. for a fun social half-hour. We welcome anyone interested in our meeting topic or the Texas Master Naturalist program.

Questions about our chapter?

Contact Koy Coffey
Director of Membership
kcoffer@texas-wildlife.org

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.



Texas Star
Lindheimeria texana

The Texas Star is a monthly publication of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program. News, stories, comments, and ideas are welcome. Please contact Kristie Denbow, denbow@gvtc.com.

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