

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter

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photo by Tom Holden

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



CLASS OF 2013 RECEPTION

The Class of 2013 reception will be Monday, August 19, 6:30 p.m., at the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center in Kerrville. Mentors will introduce each of the 35 trainees. Classes begin on Wednesday, August 28, 8:30 a.m., at the Texas Lions Camp. The regular monthly chapter meetings will resume in September.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Vern Crawford

Welcome to the Class of 2013

Our chapter is fortunate to have another full training class of 35 talented and enthusiastic men and women eager to begin studies leading to their becoming Certified Master Naturalists.

Many of the folks in this impressive group are newly arrived to the Hill Country. Every one of them comes with diverse and interesting backgrounds and we look forward to adding their many skills and talents to our chapter. What they all share is a love of nature and an ongoing interest in gaining a deeper appreciation and understanding of the plants, animals, and natural systems that make up the local ecology.

The volunteer mentors are already in the process of meeting with and getting to know each of the new trainees as they review the core curriculum and expectations with them.

We look forward to meeting and welcoming all of the trainees over refreshments during the Class Reception at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 19 at the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center, 228 Earl Garrett Street. Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist State Program Director, will give a brief overview of the history, scope, and contributions of our organization. Then the mentors will be recognized, and will give brief introductions to each of the candidates.

Thanks go out to our Class Director, Becky Etzler, to all of her hard working committee members, and to our Membership Director, Valeska Danielak, for communicating with every applicant. Special thanks also go out to all of our members who volunteered to mentor our new trainees, and to Barbara Oates, who coordinated that effort.

Please join me in welcoming our new class,

Vern

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Sandra Meineke

2013 Recertification

Norma Bruns Ann Carabin Dan Carabin
Jan Grimes Kip Kiphart Tom Schall

Milestones

Rhoda Reynolds, John Walker, Marion Worthington- Bronze Dragonfly, 250+ hours

Stephen Bishop - Gold Dragonfly, 1000+ hours

Cathy Downs - Diamond Dragonfly, 5000+ hours



photo by Paula Smith

*Congratulations
to members who
received awards at
the July meeting.*

From left to right:
Ken Weber, Tom
Riordan, Kathleen
Mundy, Robert Hansen,
Betty Clyburn, Donna
Oliver-Leep, Pat Nelson,
Marion Worthington,
Louis Giusti

How-to From the Webmaster

Kristie Denbow

Using the Training Section

The **Training Class of 2013** tab is the gateway to information about and for the 2013 class. Trainees will find schedules, maps, documents, rosters, and other content related to the new class. The training tab will be updated continually throughout the class. Look here first for answers to your questions.

Feel free to email me with comments or questions about our chapter's website.
HillCountryWebmaster@gmail.com

from Cathy Downs

An exciting visitor in Comfort: Banded Orange Heliconian

I was ruminating on a sunny Sunday in July on the abundance of Cowpen Daisy in the meadow and surrounding area in front of my house. My husband had been leaving hints that perhaps a mowing was soon in order. I started scheming how I would avoid this with my usual wildlife pleas. "It's the only thing blooming, what will the butterflies and the bees eat," etc. A flash of orange caught my eye and I picked up the binoculars thinking I had a fresh Fritillary nectaring. Here was my argument for saving the daisies!

I moved toward the color and it just didn't look right! What I saw was a stunning butterfly with vivid orange color, a longish body and zebra striping.

I ran inside for the field guide and my camera, stopping to give my husband a quick report and a "how could you think about mowing this flower" look. The visitor was being lazy and just drifting from bloom to bloom. I took about 10 photos and stayed with it until it decided it was getting too much attention. I identified it as an Orange Banded Heliconian.



This butterfly is a rare stray to South Texas. It usually lives in Mexico and the tropics. I am happy to report it as a record in Kendall County. Its host plant is Passion Flower, which I have wild on the property. It was very fresh! It's been posted to the Butterflies and Moths of North America website (www.butterfliesandmoths.org) and the Lepidopterist Society.

Needless to say, the Cowpen Daisies are staying.

From Melinda Wasson

Nature of the Texas Hill Country

On September 10, the meeting of the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will feature Bill Lindemann, who will discuss the evolution of the Texas Hill Country region beginning over a billion and one-half years ago to the present. What is so special about this region? In addition to the geological history, the talk will cover the past and present inhabitants, the changes that have occurred since settlement, and what the future might hold. The meeting is set for 3:00 p.m. at the Riverside Nature Center.

Bill was a geologist for a major oil company for 32 years and retired to Fredericksburg, where he helped found the Fredericksburg Nature Center. For 15 years he wrote a newspaper column on birding in the Hill Country. He is currently serving as Vice President of the Hill Country Land Trust. The presentation will conclude with a brief discussion regarding stewardship of our land and natural resources. Visitors are welcome. For more information contact Melinda Wasson at 830-895-2521.

Are We Polluting Our Water?

A few weeks ago I attended an all-day presentation by the Texas Watershed Steward Program. It was presented by a group from the Department of Soil and Crop Services at Texas A & M. I have attended literally dozens of programs having to do with the many aspects of water, its capture, conservation, and use; but this program had a slightly different emphasis.

Just so everyone understands the term: a watershed is the area that, if a raindrop were to fall anywhere in that area and run downhill to a creek or river, all of that area would be the watershed area for that creek or river. In some other countries, this is called the watercatchment area because it is the area that catches the rainfall that replenishes the river.

Folks in the Hill Country tend to think most often about the quantity of our water. This program also included water quality as something we should think about. What comes to mind when I mention water quality? Is it clear? Does it have an odor? A bad taste? All of these certainly are issues related to the quality of water, but not everything associated with water quality can be described that simply. Perfectly clear, odorless, and tasteless water can be severely polluted.

Here in the Hill Country we are spoiled, I guess, by the usually clear, odorless, and tasteless water in our creeks and rivers and in our groundwater. We tend to think of pollution as something around big cities, on the coast, near industrial facilities, etc., but it is not necessarily so.

Pollution is characterized as coming from either a point source or non-point source. Point source pollution can be thought of as entering the water body from a pipe as a discharge from a specific facility such as a factory, refinery, sewage treatment facility, or feed lot. Non-point source pollution enters the water from many different places.

It is relatively easy for federal and state agencies to find and regulate point-source pollution because where it is coming from can be easily identified. Not so with non-point source pollution.

What are the types of non-point source pollution and where do they come from?

One type of pollution is bacteria, coming from livestock, pet waste, wildlife (feral hogs, ducks and geese), and failing septic systems. Another type of pollution is nutrients (nitrates and phosphates) which can also come from livestock, pet wastes, and septic systems, but in addition it can come from fertilizers washed from farms and lawns.

Another type of pollution is sediment (soil) washed off of farms, overgrazed rangeland, construction sites, road maintenance, gravel operations, etc. Finally, toxic and hazardous substances can be washed from landfills, junkyards, parking lots, streets, and underground storage tanks, and may include gasoline, oil, pesticides, and herbicides.

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Bacteria can obviously introduce disease-causing organisms to both surface and ground water and can make for hazardous swimming, drinking, and polluted shellfish beds. Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms which deplete oxygen levels, killing fish and causing turbidity. Sediment can silt in lakes and ponds and cause turbidity-- reducing plant growth and killing aquatic organisms. Toxic materials can be carcinogenic or mutagenic and can accumulate in the tissues of fish and ultimately, in humans.

So anyone who has property with livestock or pets or a septic system, or uses fertilizers or herbicides or pesticides, or drives a car, may contribute to polluted surface water, and in some cases, even to groundwater.

What can we as individuals do to reduce non-point source pollution? We can manage our land to capture rainfall and have it soak into the ground, not run off. We can make sure our septic systems are functioning properly. We can keep livestock from concentrating near lakes, creeks, or rivers. We can pick up pet waste. We can use as little pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer as possible and as infrequently as possible. We can dispose of all toxic and hazardous materials properly, and certainly not by pouring them down the storm drain or house drain.

Most importantly, we can educate ourselves about the causes of pollution and how we might be contributing to it, and then change any harmful practices we might have been doing in the past.

Everyone who lives in a watershed, which is every one of us, owes it to ourselves and our neighbors to help keep our precious water clean. Just because we live here in the Hill Country, far from the most serious sources of pollution, doesn't mean we can ignore the problem.

Until next time...

Jim Stanley is a Texas Master Naturalist and the author of *Hill Country Landowner's Guide*. He can be reached at jstmn@kctc.com. Previous columns can be seen at www.hillcountrynaturalist.org.

SAVE THE DATE

"Celebrate The Cibolo"

The Cibolo Nature Center & Farm's

Annual Fundraising Gala

Saturday, October 5, 2013 -- 6:00 p.m.

Golden-cheeked Warblers Expand

I have been notified that Golden-cheeked Warblers have appeared at two water features in yards in western Gillespie County just north of Kerrville. To me, what is significant about these reported sightings is in habitat that differs from the canyon topography where these endangered species have been hanging on for a number of decades. Two examples of their preferred canyon habitat are the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge west of Austin and the Lost Maples State Natural Area in the Vanderpool area.

Both of these habitat locations feature old growth ashe juniper on the wall slopes of the canyon and a mixture of hardwoods in the floor areas of the canyons. The old growth ashe juniper or "cedar" provides the birds with stringy bark to construct their nests while the hardwoods seem to be the preferred nesting sites. Golden-cheeked Warblers are woodland birds. Prior to the settlement of the Edwards Plateau, the woodlands were found mostly on the slopes of the canyon lands. Here the trees were able to avoid the natural fires that dictated the savannah grassland habitat found on the plateau.



These warblers evidently learned over time that the stringy bark found on old growth junipers made excellent nesting material. The birds weave long strips of the bark into cup-shaped nests in a small fork of a hardwood tree branch. Red oaks and big-toothed maples apparently have sturdy branches to support the birds' woven nests. I was told by a biologist in the Lost Maples area that a Golden-cheek Warbler nest was found approximately a half mile from the nearest old growth juniper habitat. The birds had expended much effort to transport their nesting materials to the nest site.

The preference of old growth juniper as a prerequisite for nesting territories for the warblers confined their nesting range to the canyons carved into the Edwards Plateau west of the Balcones Escarpment beginning ten million years ago. The introduction of domestic livestock on the plateau also brought in cowbirds that had developed a nesting behavior of parasitizing songbird nests by leaving one egg in the host bird's nest. The cowbirds destroy the host birds' eggs which results in the host birds raising one cowbird much larger than the hosts. Birds with limited breeding ranges, such as the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo, were not able to sustain the pressure of the nest parasitism and their numbers declined.

Within the past two to three decades, a cowbird trapping program has been implemented within the breeding ranges of the two above-mentioned birds; the two songbirds were placed on the endangered species lists. Cowbirds have been trapped to reduce the pressure the cowbirds were placing on the songbirds. The result of this trapping program has brought the effect of the cowbird nest parasitism into balance, and the songbirds are slowly increasing their numbers. The program has been so successful that there is consideration of changing the status of the Black-capped Vireo to "threatened" status from "endangered."

Having the Golden-cheeked Warblers show up in areas of habitat removed from the canyon land habitat is encouraging. One factor that supports expansion of the warbler's preferred breeding habitat is that old growth juniper is no longer confined to the slopes of canyon lands. With old growth juniper widespread across the plateau, the warblers are taking advantage of this change to expand their breeding range habitats. The net result is a greater opportunity to see beautiful male Golden-cheeks possibly appearing in your yard. As we are still in a drought-period, water features in your yard will be your best draw for the thirsty birds.

I was similarly encouraged last fall when I had many reports of Golden-cheeks showing up at backyard water features as the birds were preparing to return to their winter range west of the Sierra Madre in western Mexico. The Golden-cheeks are among our earliest migrants and likewise among the earliest to depart in mid-July to early August. If you live in the Kerrville area and have a water feature for birds to enjoy, keep a look out for this small black and white bird with a golden face. There is hope we can improve their numbers to the point that more of us living in the Hill Country can enjoy this beautiful summer resident.

In birding lingo, a “fall out” occurs when spring migrating birds meet opposing winds during their flight across the Gulf of Mexico and arrive exhausted on the Texas Gulf Coast. Physically exhausted, in need of food and water, they drop to our shores, seemingly “falling out of the skies.” During a major fallout, they often lie prostrate on the ground and may need to be picked up and moved to safety.

During this past Spring, I had the experience of witnessing perhaps the largest “fallout” in the past 25 years. I lived on the Coast for 12 years and never witnessed as dramatic an event. I saw many, many “major groundings” in those years, which are similar to a “fallout.” The birds arrive in large numbers but do not show such a high level of exhaustion. This is a topic of frequent discussion amongst birders. But, despite the differences in opinions, it is something that is remarkable to be seen.

We spent from mid-April to mid-May of this year, the prime migration period, in Port Aransas. I arose before sunrise each day to photograph birds in flight. This is the time of day when many water birds move to feeding areas and provide great action photos. When the action slowed, I moved to several areas referred to as “migrant traps.” These are nearby locations where warblers, the most sought after family of birds at this time, feed on insects. Port A has several choice locations that provide great photo opportunities. Their advantage is lots of tree cover where insects are plentiful and the trees are low enough so that birds can be seen more easily to photograph. I wrote an article about Port A in an earlier *Texas Star* newsletter.

A “fallout” is never guaranteed; it is a weather phenomenon. But if migrating warblers are your photographic interest, please make plans for Spring 2014.

Here are several photos that are my favorites.



Prothonotary Warbler



American Avocet



Scarlet Tanager



Canada Warbler



Yellow Warbler



Black-throated Green Warbler

PS: A Dragonfly Photography Workshop is being held at Bitter Lake NWR near Roswell, NM on Sept. 7-8. It is being led by Cliff Powell, a very experienced and competent photographer. I attended his workshop last year. The cost is \$35 for both days' instruction and includes entrance to the park. Seating is limited. Contact Cliff at cgpowellnm@cableone.net.

photos by Tom Schall

Counting Creatures

By Sean Batura, Staff writer
sean.batura@dailytimes.com

Counting birds, bugs, lizards, and other critters, seven volunteer surveyors toured the Riverside Nature Center and surrounding environment Friday morning for the center's monthly fauna survey. The surveyors reported finding 22 bird species, eight butterfly and moth types, and five damselfly and dragonfly species, among other animals.

In the last five years of census work there, volunteers, led by Master Naturalist Thomas Collins of Center Point, have found species including 162 of bird, 89 of butterfly, 27 of dragonfly and damselfly, 14 of mammal, and 21 of amphibian and reptile.



The surveyors' recent work indicates the region's persistent drought has reduced the number of butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies at the center, and is making some trees, such as oak, more susceptible to disease, Collins said. "Butterflies need nectar when they are adults and need plants with green leaves when they're caterpillars," Collins said. "There were very few butterflies today — nothing of significance." Collins said the drought has caused many pools and ponds to disappear, which is bad for the dragonflies and damselflies, because they typically lay their eggs in stagnant water. "Nothing's holding water right now," Collins said. "All the ponds around my ranch are dry as a bone. There's not a lot of habitat for damsel and dragonflies."

Collins, who's 75 but didn't appear to navigate the narrow trails and thick brush with any difficulty, has been birding since he was 12. Collins said he identifies 90 percent of the birds catalogued in the census by sound alone. Near the head of the river trail, Collins caught a pondhawk dragonfly and demonstrated the reason the creature's family is "Odonata," which is Greek for "toothed jaw." Gripping the sleek, bright green insect, Collins put his finger to the hawk's head and was instantly nipped by the creature's jaws, which were too weak to break skin.

Friday morning, the volunteers trained their binoculars on a variety of fauna in addition to the birds, butterflies, and dragonflies that tend to steal the show. Texas river cooters, Blanchard's cricket frogs, and an unknown swimmer that quickly darted away at the group's approach made appearances. "You always see something different," said Harriet Warren, a Kerrville woman who was among the volunteers. "Quite often, there'll be a surprise you don't expect. One time we saw a momma raccoon and her babies sitting up in a tree. There was a hole in the tree, and they would peek their heads out, so it was pretty entertaining."

Notable birds sighted at the center Friday included a ruby-throated hummingbird in the center's garden area and a Bell's Vireo by the banks of nearby Town Creek. The birds were among the first migrants moving south through Texas, Collins said. Volunteers also watched a family group of Summer Tanagers darting among the bows of a large cypress off Town Creek.

Warren, Collins, Scott Magee of Bandera, and Ryan Hood of Tarpley are on the Guadalupe River Kingfishers team, which won First Place prize in May in the Great Texas Birding Classic "Big Sit" competition for its birding efforts near the nature center. The four birders sat in a 17-foot circle on the banks of Town Creek and counted 66 bird species, beating out the other teams in the Heart of Texas West region.

Collins and some of the other volunteers lamented the bamboo, Chinese tallow, wax-leaf ligustrum, Bermuda grasses and other invasive plants that have taken over much of the area along Town Creek and the Guadalupe River. The non-native plants make it harder for native animals to thrive, Collins indicated.

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Counting Creatures By Sean Batura, Staff writer, KDT *continued*

Collins' 60-acre ranch near Center Point has been purged of most invasive plants, and he puts out water, feed and about 30 nest boxes for birds. His ranch is maintained under a Texas Agricultural Wildlife Valuation, which he said lowers its taxable value to the level of an agricultural exemption. Collins performs censuses at the Love Creek Preserve in Bandera County, and he's done similar work for the U.S. Geological Survey, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife departments.

Collins said he's passed on his love for the natural world to his son and grandchildren. "I grew up in the country, and as a kid, I would go fishing at the creek when I was 6 without any parental guidance," Collins said.

He also recalls crawling through caves with carbide lights at age seven. Collins said there wasn't much else to do other than ride bicycles across rocks (there were no paved roads in his town), spin tops, and play marbles. "Most kids don't get to do that today, because they are stuck with their iPods and their iPhones," Collins said.

After managing manufacturing and information systems at Dow Chemical for 31 years, he and his wife traveled the world, viewing and learning about fauna on every continent except Antarctica. Collins said taking an interest in birds tends to lead people to become enamored with more and more species. For example, he said butterfly watching flows naturally from birding, due to similarities in field guide formats and the viewing methodologies used by organized groups.

Collins said with each new species he investigated, it felt like a filter was being removed from his eyes. "I can stand with you and carry on a conversation and identify birds all around me," Collins said. "It has allowed me to be part of what's out there and not be a foreign object. I'm part of nature. I want to be part of it, so what I see and what I hear, I enjoy."

Volunteers surveyed the Riverside Nature Center Friday in the hopes of locating birds, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies, which have declined in number during this season's persistent drought.

What they found:

► Birds

1 Yellow-crowned Night Heron
4 Black Vultures
2 Turkey Vultures
1 Rock Pigeon
7 White-winged Doves
2 Mourning Dove
2 Inca doves
1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
2 Golden-fronted Woodpecker
2 Eastern Phoebe
1 Great Crested Flycatcher
3 White-eyed Vireo
1 Bell's Vireo

1 Red-eyed Vireo
2 Carolina Chickadee
1 Black-crested Titmouse
4 Carolina Wren
3 Summer Tanager
6 Northern Cardinal
5 Great-tailed Grackle
2 House Sparrows
► **Butterflies and moth types**
Pipevine swallowtail
Cloudless sulphur
Pearl crescent
Gulf fritillary
Common buckeye
Queen
Clouded skipper
Eufala skipper

► Dragonflies and damselflies

River cruiser
Roseate skimmer
Widow skimmer
Common pondhawk
Swift setwing

► Reptiles

1 Texas River Cooter

► Amphibians

25 Blanchard's cricket frogs

► Mammals

2 Fox squirrels
3 White-tailed deer



This article was published on August 4, 2013 in The Kerrville Daily Times and is reprinted with their permission. Photos by Tom Holden.

Advanced Training

THURSDAY-FRIDAY AUGUST 15 (10AM-5PM)-AUGUST 16 (8AM-3PM) CIBOLO NATURE CENTER (CNC)

AT 13-186 THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PLANNED GRAZING

Become a better steward of the land while boosting animal performance and net income! This workshop will discuss proper stocking rates and calculation of graze and rest/recovery periods to boost forage production and improve animal performance. Participants will learn to maximize forage production by getting the right number of animals to the right place for the right amount of time. To register, go to www.cibolo.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 9AM-NOON CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND JOHN KIGHT'S HOME

AT 13-187 HARVESTING RAINWATER AND SOLAR ENERGY

John Kight, engineer, rainwater catchment and solar panel owner gives the latest technological information and the most practical advice. Learn about design and materials from someone who has done it himself. The Kight home relies solely on rainwater and uses no well or outside water source. Their system comfortably supplies delicious water for all household and landscape needs. Kight's grid tied solar energy system is tied to a battery backup and provides enough electricity for normal demand during fall, winter, and spring. This system produces sufficient energy to power all of his appliances with the exception of the air conditioning system. Cost: Members \$25; Non-members \$35. To register, go to www.cibolo.org.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22 6:30-9PM MANSFIELD PARK RECREATION CENTER, BANDERA

AT 13-181 PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

A program is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Bandera SWCD, Bandera Community Livestock and Wildlife Association and Jim Bob Brown on behalf of the Bandera County Farm Bureau and Community Livestock and Wildlife Association. Program topics include: Feral Hogs - What's Legal and What's Not? (Dr. James Cathey, Associate Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist, Texas A&M University), Predator Trapping (John Hamilton, Trapper - Bandera Community Livestock & Wildlife Association), and Cowbird Trapping & EQIP Program Update (Lynn Post, Field Representative, Bandera SWCD) Cost: \$10 person; includes program materials and a meal. Offers CEU's for individuals with a Pesticide Applicator's License. To register in advance, call 830-796-7755.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24 9AM-NOON CIBOLO NATURE CENTER

AT 13-188 BASIC BIRDING WORKSHOP

Avid birders and Master Naturalists Tom and Patsy Inglet provide information and field practice needed to make the most of your birding experience, including how to use a field guide and how to choose a good pair of binoculars. Following the workshop, be sure to attend one of the Incidental Bird Counts on September 28, 30 and October 2 to further develop your birding skills. To register for the Basic Birding Workshop or for the Incidental Bird Counts, go to www.cibolo.org

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24 8-9PM GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK (GRSP)

AT 13-177 SLITHERING SNAKES ALIVE!

Join our Park Ranger for a PowerPoint presentation about Texas snakes to learn how they survive, their value to the natural world, and which ones you might encounter in the park. Meet at the Discovery Center Amphitheater. Cost: free with a Park Pass, or \$7 daily entry fee; free for children 12 years of age and under.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6 1-5 PM KERR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (KWMA)

AT 13-149 B ADDRESSING RESOURCE CONCERNS IN THE EDWARD'S PLATEAU: PART 2

This second of three seminars will focus on natural history and research concerning collared peccary and feral swine. An outdoor tour of sites relevant to topics covered indoors will follow. Reservation required; call 830-238-4483

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11 1:30-3PM TEXAS LIONS CAMP, KERRVILLE

AT 13-183 TREE AND SHRUB ID CLASS

The fall plant identification classes will be held again this year after the New Class meeting on Wednesdays at the Texas Lions Camp. If you have taken the courses before, but feel you will learn more by repeating, you can get Advanced Training hours. Presenter is Jim Stanley.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13 8:30AM-3PM MASON MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE AREAS (MMWA)

AT 13-150 B ADDRESSING RESOURCE CONCERNS IN THE EDWARDS PLATEAU, PART 2

This seminar (the second of three) will focus on natural history, behavior, and research concerning collared peccary and feral swine. An outdoor tour of sites relevant to topics covered indoors will follow. Reservation required; call 325-347-5037.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13 12NOON-1PM WEBINAR

AT 13-180 MEETING WATER NEEDS FOR TEXANS AND WILDLIFE

In this third and final webinar presented by Trinity Waters and AgriLife Extension, Dr. Jim Cathey will discuss how land management practices that benefit agriculture and wildlife will provide clean, plentiful drinking water for Texans. Different projects will be highlighted from the Trinity River basin. To view the webinar, go to <http://forestrywebinar.net> and select the webinar title under Upcoming Webinars. Allow time in advance to be sure your computer is compatible.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2 1:30-3PM TEXAS LIONS CAMP, KERRVILLE

AT 13-184 Forbs ID class

The fall plant identification classes will be held again this year after the New Class meeting on Wednesdays at the Texas Lions Camp. If you have taken the courses before, but feel you will learn more by repeating, you can get Advanced Training hours. Presenter is John Huecksteadt.

FRIDAY, OCT. 4 1-5PM KERR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (KWMA)

AT 13-149C ADDRESSING RESOURCE CONCERNS IN THE EDWARD'S PLATEAU, PART 3

This third of three seminars is entitled "Ecosystems Approach to Wildlife Management: Putting it All Together--Finding a Cure Rather Than Treating a Symptom." Topics include white-tailed deer management, grazing management, prescribed burning, brush control, and endangered species. The seminar also will include over 30 years of nutrition and genetics research conducted in the Donnie E. Harmel White-tailed Deer Research Facility. An outdoor tour of sites relevant to topics covered indoors will follow. Reservation required; call 830-238-4483.

FRIDAY, OCT. 11 8:30AM-3:30PM MASON MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE AREAS (MMWA)

AT 13-150 C ADDRESSING RESOURCE CONCERNS IN THE EDWARDS PLATEAU, PART 3

This seminar (the third of three) is entitled "Ecosystems Approach to Wildlife Management--Putting It All Together: Finding a Cure Rather Than Treating a Symptom." Topics include whitetaileddeer management, grazing management, prescribed burning, brush control, and endangered species. The seminar also will include over 30 years of nutrition and genetics research conducted in the Donnie E. Harmel White-tailed Deer Research Facility. An outdoor tour of sites relevant to topics covered indoors will follow. Reservation required; call 325-347-5037

Lonnie Childs, current President of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), will be the speaker at our next monthly meeting on September 23. His topic will be "Early Texas Naturalists."



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months (but not this month) at 7:00 PM. in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehman Drive in Kerrville.

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.

Board of Directors 2013

- Vern Crawford -- President
- Tom Hynes -- Vice President
- Carolyn Bean -- Secretary
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- Paula Smith -- Communications Director
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- Stephen Bishop -- Volunteer Service Projects Director
- Becky Etzler -- 2013 Class Director
- J.D. Clarke -- 2012 Class Representative
- Priscilla Stanley -- Immediate Past President

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 email them to:

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LenoreLangsdorf@gmail.com

The Hill Country Chapter does not recommend or endorse organizations or commercial sources mentioned in our newsletter. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and editor.



Questions about our chapter?

Email Valeska Danielak,
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