

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
Hill Country Chapter

“20 YEARS IN REVIEW: HILL
COUNTRY TMN NEWSLETTERS”

2003-2006

20th Anniversary
oral history project

TEXAS MASTER
NATURALIST
HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER



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2003		
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
January 2003		
<p>The first newsletter of the newly formed Chapter began with a Welcome message from Sandy Pena, the first President: "Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of our members serving on various committees and the board, our chapter has gotten off to a running start in 2003! These great volunteers were recognized and thanked at our December social, but there is one other group vital to our success, which I would like to introduce to you now - our chapter advisory committee. These four people have volunteered to assist the chapter and its board in maintaining the goals, mission, and operational framework established for our chapter.</p> <p>I am very proud to introduce them to you: Chairman, Kip Kiphart, Certified Master Naturalist Rufus Stephens, Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Scott Loveland, Hydraulic and Environmental Resources Manager, UGRA Marti Swanson, Regional Interpretive Specialist, Region VII, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</p>	<p>JANUARY PROGRAM: "WEED OR WILDFLOWER?" Susan Sander, with the aid of Julia Campbell and Gwynn Jackson, will present a program on identifying what is sprouting in our yards and fields.</p> <p>VOLUNTEER PROJECT OF THE MONTH: CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT</p> <p>2003 Spring Symposium, "Historic Flora of Texas." - The Native Plant Society of Texas and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center are pleased to announce the 2003 Spring Symposium, "Historic Flora of Texas." The event will be held March 1st at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin</p>	<p>Chapter website launched. We are pleased to announce that our Chapter now has a website thanks to many hours of challenging work by Kim Whitaker. Our goal is to have the website foster communication within our Chapter by serving as a repository for the most current data on meetings, Advanced Training Opportunities, Volunteer Projects and our newsletter. The website also provides convenient links to many other authoritative websites with naturalist information, such as the sites provided by our class lecturers, state and university resources etc. which will be educational both to our members, prospective members and the interested public.</p>
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
February 2003		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Pena This is only our second month as an official chapter, but already we have some statistics to crow about! Our first Annual Report to the state, which covered just October through December of 2002, showed that we earned 296 volunteer service hours and 325.75</p>	<p>February Program: "THE BAT TUNNEL" - Kirby Carroll, a Wildlife Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will give a presentation on the "Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area" (affectionately known to locals as "the Bat Tunnel")</p>	<p>President Sandy Pena reported * There are currently 23 Texas Master Naturalist chapters, and five more in development. * Michelle Haggerty will lead a national</p>

<p>advanced training hours! Congratulations to everybody for such an impressive beginning! Our volunteer projects are expanding and several new ones are in development under the guidance of our chairman, John Quinby. Jim Stanley, our advanced training chairman, is keeping us up to date on the dozens of opportunities available to us, as well as developing some at the chapter level. With all the activities we have to choose from, I bet virtually the entire chapter will become certified this year! As wonderful as such an achievement is, it means so much more because it represents your individual effort to make a difference, and that is, of course, the essence of the Texas Master Naturalist program. Keep up the great work!</p>	<p>VOLUNTEER PROJECT OF THE MONTH: RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER While our Chapter meets at Riverside Nature Center, all of our members may not be familiar with the goals, assets and volunteer opportunities available at Riverside. The Riverside Nature Center is a five-acre arboretum and public garden featuring native plants of the Hill Country and Kerr County.</p> <p>The March Program was two part and was held both at Riverside Nature Center for "Migrating Warblers", a program by Bill Lindemann of Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center and "The Bat Tunnel", a program by Kirby Carroll, Wildlife Biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.</p> <p>VOLUNTEER PROJECT OF THE MONTH: Enchanted Rock Summit Trail Project EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AND NATIVE PLANT SALE - Saturday, APRIL 26th- 8 AM to 3 PM at Riverside Nature Center</p>	<p>training in August for at least eight other states who want to start a Master Naturalist program.</p> <p>FIRST THREE MEMBERS CERTIFIED IN OUR CHAPTER Alice Bulechek, Julia Campbell and Sandy Peña will receive their Certified Master Naturalist certificates and dragonfly pins at our March meeting. Be sure to attend the gala celebration for the first certifications in our Chapter.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>March 2003</p>		
<p>President's Message, Sandy Pena</p> <p>Springtime seems to have arrived at last, along with the black-chinned hummers and redbud blooms! The greening of the countryside always lifts our spirits, as well as our garden shovels. For some of our chapter members, spring has also meant devoting two lovely Saturdays in March to Master Naturalist issues at the regional and state level. On March 8, Myrna Langford, Jim and Priscilla Stanley, and I attended a regional retreat in San Marcos involving six central Texas chapters.</p> <p>On March 15, Jane Crone represented our chapter at the state-wide Volunteer Representatives Council meeting at Bamberger Ranch. Here are a few highlights of these two important meetings:</p>	<p>VOLUNTEER PROJECT OF THE MONTH: Enchanted Rock Summit Trail Project</p>	<p>JUNIOR MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM * A steering committee is now set up to begin planning for the Junior Master Naturalist Program, which is being sponsored by TPWD, TCE, and Texas Wildlife Association. * The state advisory committee has announced several goals for this year: a. to have the statewide curriculum printed and available for this fall. b. to formulate a liability policy for volunteer work being done by Master Naturalists. c. to complete the statewide "umbrella" 501c3 designation this year. d. to finish a chapter by-laws "template" which local chapters can add to, as appropriate.</p>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
April 2003		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña April 26th is a red-letter day for our chapter as we officially open the application period for our next training class this fall. Edna Platte and John Rogers have been busy creating our chapter display table for the Earth Day Celebration at Riverside Nature Center, and several of our members have volunteered to be on hand to answer questions, and tell folks what valuable work we do for the communities we serve. Myrna Langford has done a great job getting the updated applications ready, and Edna Platte is seeing to it that announcements about the class go out far and wide. I'm sure that everyone of us knows a friend or acquaintance that would make a great Master Naturalist, so please grab some applications and go recruiting! Myrna will have plenty of them on hand at Earth Day, and will also bring some to our meeting on April 28th. Remember though, that the deadline for applying is a little shorter this year--- June 1st.</p> <p>The Board recently asked for a report from our hardworking database manager, Betty Thomas, on our volunteer activities since last October 1st (when we began recording volunteer hours.) In just six months, chapter members have devoted more than 700 hours to 23 volunteer projects and administrative activities. This is an impressive achievement for a first-year chapter, and we still have nine months to go!</p> <p>Congratulations to each one of you who has contributed to this chapter effort--every single volunteer hour is your gift to the community. What you do COUNTS!</p>	<p>APRIL PROGRAM April Program: Hill Country Herpetology - Kathy Rice-Fletcher, a local Naturalist, will present a program on "Reptiles of the Hill Country", including living specimens of local lizards, snakes and turtles. She will discuss how each reptile goes about its daily life and answer any questions we might have on these critters.</p> <p>VOLUNTEER PROJECT OF THE MONTH: Bandera City Park Workday: Trail Maintenance</p>	<p>FOUR MORE MEMBERS CERTIFIED IN OUR CHAPTER - Myrna Langford, Maggie Tatum and Jim and Priscilla Stanley will receive their Certified Master Naturalist certificates and dragonfly pins at our April meeting. Thus, four months into our first year of Chapter meetings, we will have 25% of our members certified.</p> <p>UPDATE on the EARTH DAY CELEBRATION and MOSTLY-NATIVE PLANT SALE Saturday, APRIL 26th - 8 AM to 3 PM at Riverside Nature Center. The Plant Sale will offer over 1200 plants representing 60 different species of flowering plants, shrubs, and grasses. Special efforts were made by the Plant Committee Co-Chairs, (also our Chapter members) Gwynn Jackson and John Quinby, to obtain unusual native plants, including those that were grown specially for this event.</p>
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
May 2003		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña Ben Franklin once said, "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." Water is very much on my mind as I write this morning.</p>	<p>MAY Program: Field Trip to LOVE CREEK PRESERVE Saturday, May 31 from 10 AM to 2:00 PM - This month our field trip will replace our regular Monday night meeting. Members and prospective members (and a spouse or a friend)</p>	<p>TWO MORE MEMBERS CERTIFIED IN OUR CHAPTER</p>

<p>There's a 40% chance of rain today, and I've got my fingers crossed. The Hill Country is facing another drought cycle this summer unless we are rescued by a deluge. At the recent Earth Day Celebration, the presentation on "Rainwater Harvesting" was well-attended, and we continue to get calls from folks currently on wells wanting to switch to rainwater. As Master Naturalists, we focus on educating people about conserving and managing our natural resources. Surely one of the most important (but often overlooked) natural resources is rainwater. With the increasing demand on our existing water sources (rivers and aquifers), and the projected doubling of our population over the next few decades, our water problems are only going to get worse. To help respond to these critical water issues, I am hopeful that our chapter can develop volunteer projects which deal with water conservation, water quality, and water education for our service area. If you are interested in pursuing these topics as a volunteer, please get in touch with John Quinby, our volunteer projects chairman, with your ideas. To learn more about water issues in Texas and the Hill Country in particular, let me recommend a great website I have recently learned about: www.texaswatermatters.org. In addition, the Sierra Club has produced a timely booklet, "Facts About Texas Water and Simple Steps to Appreciate, Conserve and Protect Our Most Valuable Resource." I have 30 copies of it and will bring them to our next meeting (June). In the meantime, I hope everybody has a great time at the field trip to the Love Creek Preserve on May 31st. Unfortunately, I can't be there with you because of my husband's class reunion with old friends from his college days (40 years ago!). See you in June!</p>	<p>are invited on this special Field Trip to a new, pristine Nature Conservancy Preserve near Medina that is not open to the public.</p> <p>VOLUNTEER PROJECT OF THE MONTH: Wildlife Field Research at Cibolo Nature Center Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne (Kendall County) holds Wildlife Field Research in both May and October. The research is performed by small teams of volunteers led by experts over a three-day period.</p>	<p>John and Barbara Quinby will receive their Certified Master Naturalist certificates and dragonfly pins at our next meeting. Thus, five months into our first year of Chapter meetings, we will have 32% of our members certified.</p> <p>NEW ADDRESS FOR OUR CHAPTER WEBSITE The new address for our Chapter website is http://www.hillcountrymasternaturalist.org Our hardworking webmaster, Kim Whitaker, has moved our website to this easy-to-remember address. Kim has also added some interesting and useful Resource Links for us (including a site on topographic maps).</p> <p>Priscilla Stanley was the newsletter editor.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>June 2003 President's Message by Sandy Peña Despite an early morning downpour on Tuesday, Jane Crone and I braved the elements to appear on the local cable channel to spread the word about our upcoming fall training course. It was a great chance to talk about what a Master Naturalist is and why we are all so enthusiastic about it. We had provided the show's hostess with some questions to feed us (which she did), but she also took us off on some interesting tangents as well. It made me realize how</p>	<p>June Program: American Farmland Trust - American Farmland Trust is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is dedicated to stopping the loss of farm and ranchland. The approach is a combination of technical assistance, public education, public policy development and direct land conservation projects.</p> <p>July 11-13, 2003 The 2nd Biennial Texas Prairies and Savannahs Conference at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.</p>	<p>FOUR MORE MEMBERS CERTIFIED IN OUR CHAPTER Ann Creel, Jane Crone, Edna Platte and Betty Thomas will receive their Certified Master Naturalist certificates and dragonfly pins at our June meeting. Thus, six months into our first year of Chapter</p>

<p>important it is for us to be visible in the communities we serve. One way we are doing that this month is by sponsoring (along with TPWD) a “Project Wild” workshop in Fredericksburg on June 18th. Thanks to Jane Crone for spearheading this opportunity on behalf of our chapter. It’s not too late to sign up; just give Jane a call (830/669-2639). Another opportunity for us to “make a splash” in all four of the counties we serve is by signing up to participate in the recently announced UGRA “River Monitors Program.” Folks may not pay a lot of attention to the quality of the water they swim in, but they ought to. This project will enable us to help the public learn about their local water resources in a new way. I am especially glad to be working on this with UGRA since they are a major local partner of our chapter. Please call or email Charles Kneuper at UGRA (896-5445) to become involved in this great project. Our second training class is just a few months away now. We presently have 17 applications, and there are others on the way. The Board will act on those received to date at its meeting on June 18th. Since we have extended our deadline to July 1st, there is still plenty of time for folks to get their applications in. We will act on all subsequent applications at the July board meeting. Myrna has placed applications at the Riverside Nature Center as well as dozens of other places throughout our service area. Barbara Lowenthal and Jane Crone have put together a terrific group of instructors. It makes me want to do it all over again!</p>	<p>VOLUNTEER PROJECT OF THE MONTH: UGRA Calls for Volunteer River Monitors Kerrville, TX, June 4 -- The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) is calling for volunteers to sample the Guadalupe River and its tributaries.</p>  <p><small>Cyenia inopinatus (Hy. Edw., 1892 Emerged ex larva 8 May 2003, Kendall Co., TX. Coll. Myrna Langford. Larval foodplant, Asclepias asperula capricornus (Woods.) © J F Doyle</small></p>	<p>meetings, we will have 46% of our members certified. For the information of our prospective members, a Master Naturalist achieves certification by completing the 40 hours of required training, a minimum of 40 hours of approved volunteer service, and the minimum of 8 hours of approved Advanced Training within approximately one year.</p> <p>Special Achievement of the Month: Discovery of a Moth Not Previously Recorded in Kendall County The moth species <i>Cyenia inopinatus</i>, never before reported in Kendall County and with few reported in Texas, has been discovered and authenticated in Kendall County by a network of interested people connected with our own Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists. While participating in the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP) and observing monarch larvae on antelope-horns milkweed on the family ranch, Myrna Langford was also closely watching orange caterpillars on the same milkweed. Unable to identify these mystery caterpillars and concerned that they were dominating the shared milkweed feast, Myrna contacted Kip Kiphart, HCMN advisor and MLMP Trainer, and Patty Pasztor, an ethnobotanist and butterfly enthusiast. Kip took it from there</p>
<p>PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>July 2003 President’s Message by Sandy Peña</p>	<p>July Program: BEWARE OF CITY SLICKERS: The Urbanization of the Hill Country</p>	<p>TWO MORE MEMBERS CERTIFIED IN OUR CHAPTER</p>

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
 20th Anniversary Committee
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<p>On Wednesday, July 2nd, seven Master Naturalists got out their butterfly books, and went looking for butterflies. We were participating in the second annual Kerrville Butterfly Count, which is part of a national counting event held each summer. Our group consisted of: Julia Campbell, Jane Crone, Barbara Lowenthal, Priscilla Stanley, Kay White, Gay Gilbert, and myself. Others who joined in the fun were Bill Lindemann (our leader), Susan Sander, Raul Peña, and Terry Doyle, who is a butterfly expert from San Antonio. (Terry is also the one who identified Myrna Langford's mystery moth last month. Terry told us that rivers and creeks are "highways" for butterflies, and the Hill Country is a crossroads for butterflies coming from all four directions. And, would you believe, the kinds of species we find around here depend upon the dirt! In other words, what grows well in our soils attracts certain kinds of butterflies more than others. Terry also let us know that Texas has more butterfly species recorded than any other state!! The group started at the Riverside Nature Center, going over every inch of ground looking for the elusive patches of moving color. A net was used to put some butterflies in a vented container for better viewing. Each was successfully released after it was identified. In between sightings, some of us gabbed about the RNC's wildflower display, and even did a little weeding! After lunch, we moved on to the Butterfly Garden at Kerrville-Schreiner State Park to do more hunting. If you haven't visited this garden yet, you are in for a treat! (And if you are inspired to do some work there, the project number is KR-01-B). Our final tally for the day was 26 species and 266 individuals. We had a great time, learned a lot and saw some truly beautiful species that don't often visit our own yards. We'll be doing the butterfly count again next year, so make plans to participate!</p>	<p>This month's program is "BEWARE OF CITY SLICKERS", which will touch on aspects of "The American Dream," globalization and urban sprawl and urbanization of the Hill Country. Please join us on Monday, July 28th at 6:30 p.m. at Riverside Nature Center at 150 Francisco Lemos St. in Kerrville for a social hour, followed by this timely program at 7:00 p.m. Our speaker, Ridlon (Kip) Kiphart.</p> <p>Kip was in the first class of the North Texas Master Naturalist Program and became the chapter's first president. The North Texas Chapter was the second chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. He initiated the TxDOT Project involving several organizations and was involved in establishing the White Rock Prairie Project and resurrecting the prairie restoration project at the Anderson Farm at Cedar Hill State Park. He has volunteered over 1000 hours as a Texas Master Naturalist.</p>	<p>Mike Johnson and Kay White will receive their Certified Master Naturalist certificates and dragonfly pins at our July meeting. Thus, seven months into our first year of Chapter meetings, we will have 54% of our members certified</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>August 2003 President's Message by Sandy Peña Different Ecosystems...Same Challenges Raúl and I have just returned from a two-week visit to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, a land of shimmering lakes (both Great and small), dense evergreen forests, and hundreds of migratory bird species. As we visited nature preserves, national wildlife refuges,</p>	<p>August Program: Adventures of a Lifelong Naturalist - Lee Haile will give a presentation on the uniqueness of the Hill Country from the perspective of a naturalist. He will share some of his adventures in the field, as well as some interesting things he has discovered or found. Lee will show us a video of birds, insects, and other creatures. He will also talk about the highlights of his thirteen year career as entomologist and agricultural</p>	<p>TWO MORE MEMBERS CERTIFIED IN OUR CHAPTER</p> <p>Karen Johnson and Wilma Teague will receive their Certified Master Naturalist certificates and dragonfly pins at our August</p>

<p>and state parks in the area, I was struck by the fact that although the characteristics of these northern ecosystems are vastly different from ours in the Hill Country, yet they present similar management challenges, including 1) invasion of exotic species; 2) loss of habitat; and 3) endangered species. The problem of invasive species was literally brought home to me in the backyard of the friends we were visiting. Beneath the numerous evergreen trees that surround their cabin, the sandy soil supports not only the "good" grasses and shrubs, but also the ferociously invasive exotic, garlic mustard (<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>). I spent one whole morning yanking it out, but only made a small dent in it. The local field biologists who identified it for our friends also told them that this exotic is extremely widespread throughout the Northeast, Midwest, and into Utah. Scientific research has so far not produced any biological control agents for it. As for loss of habitat, the entire Upper Peninsula represents it on a grand scale. Over a century ago, virtually all the forests were clear-cut: first the loggers took all of the evergreens, and then they turned to the hardwoods, and decimated those. Today, the UP is covered with second and third growth, and less than 0.9% of the old growth remains. Imagine what that wholesale clearing did to the plants, animals, and other life forms in those ecosystems! We were fortunate to visit a small preserve of old-growth forest and to walk among majestic trees of beech, maple, and hemlock (some estimated to be around 500 years old!) so dense that their 50'-75' high canopy shut out much of the sunlight. It reminded me of that wonderful Robert Frost line, "The woods are lovely, dark and deep...". It was a solemn, awesome reminder of what used to be. On a happier note, our visit to Seney National Wildlife Refuge taught us about a real success story for an endangered species, the trumpeter swan. This refuge, created by Teddy Roosevelt in 1935, manages over 7,000 acres of wetlands, with an additional 25,000 acres of true wilderness. The elegant trumpeter swan was nearly extinct when, in 1991-2, captive-reared swans were released at Seney. The excellent habitat allowed the swans to flourish and brought them back from the brink. We saw nearly a dozen of them as we drove along the marshland wildlife drive. Other thrilling sights were osprey parents feeding their young, loons feeding in the lake, and lots of Canadian geese (so that's where they go!). At the Visitors' Center, we were so disappointed to find out that some eaglets had fledged the previous day, but we at least got to see their</p>	<p>consultant.</p> <p>Brush Management Field Day Well-Attended - Our Chapter was well-represented with five members and two spouses (Patrick Klein, Myrna and David Langford, Jim and Priscilla Stanley and Betty and Neil Thomas) at the Brush Management seminars given by the Texas Cooperative Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on July 19th on a private ranch in Waring. This event was approved as Advanced Training for our Chapter.</p>	<p>meeting. Thus, eight months into our first year of Chapter meetings, we will have 61% of our members certified.</p>
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<p>nest (it was almost as big as our cabin!). We could have spent much more time in places like those I've mentioned, and other natural wonders that we didn't have time to visit. This trip was a reminder to me that one of the lasting benefits of our Master Naturalist training is that it has given me a much better perspective on the natural world wherever I go--I hope you feel the same way!</p>		
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>September 2003</p>		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Pena Welcome to the Class of 2003 This past Wednesday I had the pleasure of meeting nearly all of the class of 2003. You could feel the excitement in the classroom at UGRA—these folks are really glad to be part of the class. There are now 22 class members, 13 women and 9 men, coming to us from five counties. I thought it would be fun to share with you some details from the applications of these new members, so we can all get to know them a little better, a little sooner. So, without further ado, "Ladies first!" (Don't worry, guys, your turn will come next month)</p> <p>From Gillespie County: Jannean Alexander Sharon Corley Gail Eager Stacy Johnson Katherine Peake</p> <p>From Kerr County: Teresa Marilyn Murrmann Nancy Vaughan</p> <p>From Kendall County: Madonna Ballou Milby Moore Bobbie Livingston</p> <p>From Real County: Tracy Garofano</p> <p>From Bandera County: Emily Matheson</p>	<p>September Program: The Texas Living Waters Project Jennifer McMahon, Outreach Coordinator of the Texas Living Waters Project, which is a program of the National Wildlife Federation, will share with us some of the concerns on fresh water management in Texas and how we might help. How to manage fresh water resources is one of the most critical issues facing Texas in the new century.</p>	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
October 2003		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña In last month's message, I introduced the ladies of our 2003 fall training class, so now it's the men's turn. As with the ladies, the men are also nicely distributed among the four counties we serve: two from Gillespie, two from Kerr, one from Kendall, and four from Bandera. So, without further ado, here they are: From Gillespie County: Lonnie Childs Gene Smith From Kerr County: Howard Platte Bob Richie From Kendall County: Matt Fuller From Bandera County: Ed Gage Lee Haile Bobby Reagan Billy Walker</p> <p>We are really lucky to have such talented and enthusiastic men and women joining us. By the way, one of them will soon be elected to serve as the Class representative on our Board next year. Let's make them ALL feel welcome as they begin to get involved in our Chapter activities. It seems hard to believe that we are now 50 members strong!</p>		<p>TWO MORE MEMBERS CERTIFIED IN OUR CHAPTER Barbara Lowenthal and George Tinsley will receive their Certified Master Naturalist certificates and dragonfly pins at our October meeting. Thus, ten months into our first year of Chapter meetings, we will have 68% of our members from the Class of 2002 certified.</p>
November 2003		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña This year's fourth annual state Master Naturalist meeting in Navasota (October 24-26) was a treasure trove of advanced training topics and roundtable discussions—which made it really hard to choose just a few! Fortunately, there was no competition for the keynote speaker, Gary Clark. Gary's talk, "Connecting People with</p>	<p>November Program: Texas Wildscape Programs for School Children On Monday, November 24th, Judit Green, an Urban Wildlife Biologist with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in San Antonio, will give a program on bringing Wildscapes into the schools, or even into your backyard for your own children.</p>	<p>Our Chapter CERTIFICATION STATUS Eleven months into our first year of Chapter meetings, 19 of the 28 members of the Class of 2002 have achieved certification. Thus, 68% of our first Class is now certified. For the information of our prospective members,</p>

<p>Nature—the Rest of the Story”, was truly inspirational, and I’d like to share with you some of his remarks. First, his background: Gary Clark is the author of “Wonders of Nature,” a weekly column in the Houston Chronicle and Chair of the Business & Economics Division at North Harris College in Houston. He is also the founder of the Piney Woods Wildlife Society and is past president and current Board Advisor of the Houston Audubon Society. Gary’s theme is that we must share our joy of nature with others, or we will lose it. For many people today, their view of the natural world is actually artificial (TV, zoos, Discovery Channel, etc.) What are they missing? It’s their own up-close and personal connection with the natural world around them. Using birds as an example of how to help people connect with nature, Gary urged us to first get people involved in the joy of birdwatching (or butterflies, or any kind of flora/fauna). Currently, there is a whopping 60% turnover in birdwatchers! Most of these folks give up because they think they’ll “never get good at it” or “never learn to ID birds,” etc. So we have to get folks hooked on the pleasure of it first, make it fun, enriching, a new way of looking at birds, rather than intimidating them with scientific terminology and “lists”. Not that these two things aren’t very important to many birders, but that these advanced interests aren’t the primary reason for attracting people to birds, plants, animals, etc. In other words, we need to learn to see things from other people’s point of view before we can change it. The main point he emphasized is that people will save things they think are beautiful, or precious to their lives. If we as naturalists want to save and preserve the natural world, we must reinvent ourselves as enthusiasts, not experts to other folks. As Gary said, “Brag about what you love, not what you know!” This is a powerful take-home message for all of us. Our Chapter has embarked on just such a mission, and our obvious enthusiasm for our own connections with nature is having, and will continue to have, a direct and positive influence on those with whom we work. Congratulations to every one of you for an outstanding first Chapter year!!</p>	<p>Historical year-END pot luck DINNER! Our Chapter will hold its annual Pot Luck Dinner on Monday, December 8 with the social time beginning at 6:00 PM, and dinner at 6:30 PM . The purpose of this event is to celebrate all that we have collectively accomplished over the past year with our learning about the natural world around us, the service we have provided to our communities, and the graduation of our Class of 2003. It will also be a wonderful time for socializing with members and their spouses or guests and catching up on everyone’s news.</p>	<p>a Master Naturalist achieves certification by completing the 40 hours of required training, a minimum of 40 hours of approved volunteer service, and the minimum of 8 hours of approved Advanced Training within approximately one year.</p> <p>ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT NOVEMBER MEETING The Nominating Committee of Chairman Mike Johnson, Priscilla Stanley and Maggie Tatum offer the following nominations for our Chapter officers in 2004 : President Sandy Pena VP of Communications & Public Relations John Rogers VP of Training Jane Crone VP of Programs & Projects George Tinsley Secretary and VP of Membership Myrna Langford Treasurer Mike Johnson This slate includes three candidates from Bandera County, and one each from Gillespie, Kendall and Kerr Counties. Additional nominations will be accepted by the Nominating Committee, or at our November 24th meeting. Elections will be held at our November 24th meeting.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>December 2003</p>	<p>A Newsletter was not published in December 2003</p>	

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2004		
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
January 2004		
President's Message	Activities	Noted
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña Happy New Year, everybody! (Bet I'm the umpteenth person to say that). We're barely into January, and already we're off to a running start. The first project activity of the year was the Christmas Bird Count in Kendall County on Jan. 3rd, which Milby Moore and Bobbie Livingston participated in. Bobbie told me recently that they saw almost no sparrows, and that the county has cleared all the roads right up to the fence lines (she calls it the "General Sherman landscape") so that habitat is no longer available to the birds. Bobbie intends to talk with her county commissioner and others about why such practices are a big mistake--you go, girl! In other Christmas Count news, our own Jane Crone scored a rare bird sighting on the West Kerr County count: a pair of American woodcocks! Her group also found a Louisiana waterthrush (another rare sighting), and saw 54 species in all--the highest number recorded in the four years of this count, according to Bill Lindemann. Nearly a dozen of our MNs turned out for our first AT of the year on Jan. 10th. Amy Sugeno, the manager at the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area, led a Tree Bark ID Workshop. We scrutinized over 15 trees as well as some bushes and other flora. One unusual tidbit we learned was that the Escarpment Black Cherry was used by native peoples as a cough suppressant and for labor pains (not sure if it was to relieve the pains, or induce them!). One other project I want to mention is the year-long Texas Hummingbird Roundup Backyard Survey (our project ID is CC02-A). I put my feeder out on Jan. 1st, even though I've never</p>		<p>Our Chapter CERTIFICATION STATUS - Since our November newsletter, five more members have achieved certification as Master Naturalists. Congratulations go to Kathryn Harrison, Holly Houston, Gwynn Jackson, John Rogers, and Kim Whitaker. At the end of our first year of Chapter meetings, 24 of the 28 members of the Class of 2002 have achieved certification. Thus, 86% of our first Class are now certified Master Naturalists. As of January 1, 2004, the Class of 2002 begins working toward 40 hours of volunteer service to either maintain or attain certification in 2004. For the Class of 2002, volunteer hours from 2003 do not carry over toward certification for 2004, however these hours do count toward cumulative awards. The Class of 2003 can carry over their 2003 hours and continue to accumulate hours until December 31, 2004 toward their 40 volunteer hours requirement for certification. New Master Naturalists are allowed fifteen months to achieve their initial certification. For the information of our prospective members, a Master Naturalist achieves certification by completing the 40 hours of required training, a minimum of 40 hours of approved volunteer service, and the minimum of 8 hours of approved Advanced Training within one year.</p>

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
 20th Anniversary Committee
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<p>seen them around before mid-March. No sightings yet, but Priscilla Stanley tells me they have hummers at their place (probably over-wintering). I hope many of you will participate in this fun and easy project that provides excellent tracking data to TPWD. If you didn't get one of the survey sheets, just call or email John Quinby, our project chairman, for help. Whatever your choice of volunteer activities this year, I hope you have a great time while doing something truly worthwhile. And please consider sharing some of your experiences with the rest of us by writing them up and sending them to Priscilla for the newsletter. With 50 of us out there doing good deeds, there's got to be some great stories to tell!</p>		
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>February 2004</p>		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña There's lots of exciting news that I'm proud to share with you this month, especially those of you who weren't able to attend the January meeting. First up is the 2003 Annual Report for our chapter, which is required by the state office. During the past year our members provided 2,181 volunteer service hours, and completed 398 advanced training hours--congratulations to all for these impressive numbers. Equally impressive, an amazing 24 out of 28 of our original group of members became certified MNs--that's more than 85%! Our current membership level is 51, including two transfer members. This is amazing growth for such a young chapter! I have no doubt that 2004 will be an even more impressive year for our volunteer efforts. Second, one of our hardest-working members, Priscilla Stanley, has achieved the first state "milestone" in our chapter. That milestone is 250 cumulative volunteer hours, but Priscilla blew past that with 311 hours by the end of 2003. At our January meeting, the board presented Priscilla with a bouquet of flowers to mark her achievement. Congratulations, Priscilla!</p> <p>Third, it was wonderful to see 12 of our members turn out for the MN regional retreat on January 31st at John</p>		

Knox Ranch. No other chapter even came close to that kind of representation. Several of those there from our chapter are members of the latest training class, which is really exciting. Last, I want to mention another opportunity for our chapter. **Michelle Haggerty**, the state program coordinator, has asked our chapter to be the host chapter for the 2004 Annual Meeting, which will be held at **Mo Ranch** this year (right in our backyard). There's lots to do, so if you'd like to be involved, please let me know. (And, yes, this work does count for volunteer hours.) Michelle will be coming to visit us in late March to start the ball rolling. And if you have any suggestions for Advanced Training topics at the state meeting, speak up!



Twelve members represented our Hill Country Chapter at the Master Naturalist Regional Retreat, including (clockwise from the lower left) **Lee Haile, Tracy Garofano, Wilma Teague, Emily Matheson, Sandy Pena, Bob Richie, Myrna Langford, Kathryn Harrison, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley, Maggie Tatum and Edna Platte.** A large chunk of time at the retreat was spent on goal-setting activities, and our members came up with some

<p>important goals for our chapter to work on this year. Here they are: 1. Try to increase the diversity of our membership 2. Start a junior MN program of some type to increase our outreach to youth 3. Work on ways to get more members to our meetings 4. Develop and implement our proposed Land Management Assistance Program to help small land owners 5. Make our chapter website more useable I hope each of you will think about these goals, and throw out your ideas and suggestions on how best to achieve them. Already the group came up with some great ideas for #3, which I will pass along to the program committee.</p>		
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>March 2004</p>		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña It was a misty, foggy morning last Wednesday (3/3), but that did not deter four adventurous MNs from driving out to the Kerr Wildlife Management Area in western Kerr County to hunt the elusive, endangered Tobusch fishhook cactus. Myrna Langford, Maggie Tatum, Wilma Teague, and myself volunteered to assist TPWD botanist, Jackie Poole, in locating new specimens of this tiny cactus hidden in and among the wiry grasses, cedar brakes, and rock-strewn hillsides of the KWMA. Previous searches there had already revealed the locations of more than 100 of these cacti, but Jackie felt sure there were more to be found. And find we did! We were joined in our search by Amy Sugeno of the Old Tunnel WMA, along with two TPWD colleagues of Jackie's, and my husband, Raul, who also served as our official photographer. Bill Armstrong, the manager of KWMA, showed us the way to our search area, where a few Tobusch had very recently been found. With eyes glued to the ground and careful steps inching forward, the group began searching for our prey. After about 15 minutes, Raul scored with the first find. After several individual Tobusch were spotted, Amy finally hit the jackpot with a large grouping of 14! Maggie and Wilma also found specimens. As we broke for lunch, the threatening skies made good on their promise, and we</p>	<p>March Program: 1. Information on Kerrville Schreiner Park: 2. An Overview of Six Chapter Volunteer Projects The former Kerrville-Schreiner State Park on Bandera Highway (State Highway 173) in Kerrville has becoming a Kerrville City Park. Tim Hufstedler, the Superintendent of the new City Park, will briefly discuss the park changeover and the City's vision for the Park. Hufstedler has been in Kerrville since 1981, including over 20 years working for Texas Parks & Wildlife Department as the Superintendent of Kerrville-Schreiner State Park. The second portion of our program will be an overview of six popular Volunteer Projects approved by our Chapter. VOLUNTEER PROJECT OF THE MONTH: THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN AT THE NEW CITY PARK The Kerrville-Schreiner State Park contained a large amphitheater with concentric rows of benches surrounding a presentation pavilion and fire ring in the center. The amphitheater contains a butterfly garden that is protected from hungry deer by high fencing that is attractively disguised with vines and plantings. Several of our Chapter members have been instrumental in funding, building, planting and maintaining this butterfly garden for the enjoyment of Park visitors, even before our Master Naturalist Chapter was founded in 2002. This project is continuing now that the State Park has become a Kerrville City Park</p>	<p>Earth Day Celebration and Mostly Native Plant Sale April 24 8 AM – 3 PM: This annual event is co-sponsored by Riverside Nature Center and the Native Plant Society of Texas - Kerrville Chapter. It is held at Riverside Nature Center. Admission and the seminars are free. There will be live music, food, and events for children and for adults throughout the day. YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU! Next month we will begin the application process for our Fall 2004 Class. As in past years, we will be doing a chapter display/applications/information booth at several events, to tell others about the Texas Master Naturalist program and the wonderful volunteer activities of the Hill Country Chapter, and to encourage folks to apply for our next training class. For these events, we need members to sign up to work at our booth for 1-2 hours at a time on the following Saturdays:</p>

<p>packed it in for the day. We all had a great time and felt good about helping with ongoing TPWD research activities. There will be other such "one-day" volunteer opportunities with TPWD coming up this year, so sign up for the fun of it!</p>		
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>April 2004</p>		
<p>President's Message & Volunteer Project of the Month: UGRA's Volunteer River Monitors Program by Sandy Peña Last month, UGRA announced the expansion of its "Volunteer River Monitors Program" with three new studies for the Upper Guadalupe. The first study focused on springs, seeps, and tributaries of the river here in Kerr County. I volunteered to collect samples from sections of Verde Creek, Turtle Creek, West Creek, and a spring on the river just west of Center Point. This turned out to be a really fun learning experience and a chance to see these creeks "up close and personal." The headwaters of Verde Creek, no wider than a couple of jumps, begin just past the remains of the old Camp Verde Civil War post. No doubt the soldiers watered their camels there. Even today, the folks who own the headwaters land still drink straight from the creek. At another sampling spot farther downstream, I had to work my way down to the bank through a thicket of poison hemlock, and balance on slippery rocks to keep my plastic jug in the moving water. Collecting at the junction of West Creek and Turtle Creek, I watched dragonflies flitting to and fro over the water, as I held on to the barbed wire strung across the creek to keep folks like me from trespassing. The most delightful discovery of the five samples I took was at the "swimming hole" location on the river road near Center Point. I have driven that road hundreds of times and watched kids swinging out over the river on an old rope hanging from a huge cypress tree. But I had never realized that a spring flowed into the river right there. Sure enough, as I stepped down the bank, I could hear the spring before I saw it. The crystal-clear water babbled out of the ground, protected by tiny green ferns and grasses,</p>	<p>APRIL 2004 April Program: The Use and Importance of Birds to Native Americans in Texas and Adjacent Areas Our April program will be a presentation on "The Use and Importance of Birds to Native Americans in Texas and Adjacent Areas" by Dr. Darrell Creel of The University of Texas at Austin.</p> <p>MAY DAY with MOTHER NATURE A Family Affair Saturday, May 1st, 2004 at Kerrville-Schreiner Park - As you know, our Chapter is co-sponsoring a Nature Fair with the City of Kerrville Parks & Recreation Department. The program includes some excellent presenters and topics of interest for the whole family.</p> <p>Earth Day Celebration and Mostly Native Plant Sale April 24 8 AM – 3 PM: This annual event is co-sponsored by Riverside Nature Center and the Native Plant Society of Texas - Kerrville Chapter. It is held at Riverside Nature Center. Admission and the seminars are free. There will be live music, food, and events for children and for adults throughout the day</p>	<p>YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU! HURRY! THERE IS STILL TIME TO VOLUNTEER! This month we will begin the application process for our Fall 2004 Class. As in past years, we will be doing a chapter display/applications/information booth at several events, to tell others about the Texas Master Naturalist program and the wonderful volunteer activities of the Hill Country Chapter, and to encourage folks to apply for our next training class.</p> <p>MASTER NATURALIST CERTIFICATIONS FOR 2004 At our March meeting, Tracy Garafano and Lee Haile became the first members of the new Class of 2003 to achieve certification as Texas Master Naturalists. At our April meeting, we will have four re-certifications of members of the Class of 2002 including Myrna Langford, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley and Maggie Tatum.</p>

creating several small, clear pools in the hollows of the tree roots as it followed its well-worn path down into the river. What more reward can a Master Naturalist ask for?



Image
Tracy Garafano and Lee Haile celebrate their first certification with bouquets of Texas Mountain laurel

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

[May 2004](#)

President's Message by Sandy Peña

On May 1st, Mother Nature once again proved that she has the last word. Despite our "best laid plans" and months of preparation, our chapter's "May Day with Mother Nature" event got rained out, and how! I awoke way before dawn to great claps of thunder and lightning so bright it hurt my closed eyes. The storm was still going full blast by the time I got to the Kerrville-Schreiner Park at 7:30, and the temperature was dropping like a rock. A few other hardy MNs showed up, too, but we all knew it was a no-go. And what a great line-up of speakers and

PROJECTS AND EVENTS

May Program: Insects of the Hill Country

Ed Gage has worked as an entomologist for 30 years. He has served as county extension agent in for three counties in two states. He has been an Integrated Pest Management specialist with Texas A&M, as well as with the Texas Department of Agriculture. Ed has done research in agriculture for over twenty years, as well as applied that research as a regulatory entomologist revising laws related to agricultural pests. He has also been a part of the quarantine actions to eradicate destructive pests from Texas. An ecologist and naturalist, he is working on the insects of Texas.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES

- **Article:** Hill Country Critters: The Ringtail by Raul Pena
- **Article;** Spike Blames Parents, Society for Failings by Bill Armstrong, Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife

<p>demonstrators we had recruited, too. The chapter owes a huge thank-you to: George Tinsley, who chaired the effort, Barbara Lowenthal and Ernest Tremayne, who also served on the planning committee, and many other MNs who volunteered to be speakers, demonstrators, or to help out in other ways: Maggie Tatum, Ed Gage, Lee Haile, John Rogers, Alice Bulechek, Myrna Langford, Julie Campbell, Bob Richie, as well as our board advisors, Kip Kiphart, Rufus Stephens, Scott Loveland, and Charles Kneupper. I'd also like to thank Barbara Rippey and Tim Hufstedler of the Kerrville City Parks Dept. for working so closely with us in planning the event. Just a reminder again that we're now into our official application period for the 2004 fall class, so please help us find some good candidates for becoming Master Naturalists! Myrna will have some applications available at the May meeting. And please mark your calendar for our special June family picnic/social in Louise Hays Park on Monday, June 28 (our regular meeting date). A special thanks to Emily and Jim Matheson for putting this event together for us. More details in the June newsletter.</p>		
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>June 2004</p>		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña It's June again and our Chapter's fall class application process is in full swing. Kudos to Nancy Vaughan and her curriculum committee, who have put together another great lineup of instructors to wow the new class members. This time around, the Board has decided to add a new feature which has proven successful with many other chapters. We are starting a person-to-person mentoring effort to welcome the new trainees. The idea is to provide each of them with a personal contact for information, friendship, and support during the training period. Mentoring is a great way to reduce feelings of being a "stranger among strangers" and to make each trainee feel welcome and appreciated. So, we are looking for some enthusiastic Chapter members to act as</p>	<p>June 28th Meeting: A Potluck Picnic in the Park This month our meeting will be a Family Potluck Picnic in Louise Hayes Park on the Guadalupe River in Kerrville. We want our members and their families to come and get to know each other better, since we don't all volunteer for the same projects, or see each other that often since we hail from four different counties. We want this picnic to be a way to visit and enjoy each other. We have the Group Pavilion reserved from 5 PM to 9 PM, but feel free to come earlier to practice your plant and tree identification, chat with your friends, or simply enjoy the river. Bring frisbees or whatever sports equipment might be fun in the park.</p>	<p>Article: Meet Your Hill Country Lizards: Ground Skink (<i>Scincella lateralis</i>) Article: Eastern Fence Lizard (<i>Sceloporus undulatus consobrinus</i>) MASTER NATURALIST CERTIFICATIONS FOR 2004 At our May meeting, Alice Bulechek, Sandy Peña and Maggie Tatum achieved re-certification for 2004 as Texas Master Naturalists. This year's re-certification pin is a delightful green frog. In addition, Sandy Peña was recognized for reaching the first Milestone of 250 hours of volunteer service. She will receive a Bronze Dragonfly pin at the annual Master Naturalist State meeting to</p>

<p>mentors, matched one-on-one with a trainee who lives nearby (or at least in the same county!). Some suggestions for mentoring activities include: Call the trainee before the class period begins to welcome them, answer questions, get to know their interests, let them know something about you, and why MN is important to you. 2. Offer to meet face-to-face, perhaps by inviting him/her to a Chapter meeting or volunteer project. Contact the trainee periodically during the classes to see if there are any questions, problems, etc. that you can help with. Since all of us have been through the training process, it should be easy to share that experience with new trainees, and make them feel like a part of the Chapter from the very beginning.</p> <p>Priscilla Stanley was still the newsletter editor</p>		<p>commemorate this achievement. For the information of our prospective members, a Master Naturalist achieves certification by completing the 40 hours of required training, a minimum of 40 hours of approved volunteer service, and the minimum of 8 hours of approved Advanced Training within approximately one year. The Master Naturalist program encourages members to continue serving their communities, and to continue their education by requiring a minimum of 40 hours of approved volunteer service, and a minimum of 8 hours of approved Advanced Training in each successive year to achieve re-certification for that year.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>July 2004</p>		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña At our Board meeting on June 23rd, several decisions were made that I'd like to share with everyone. First, the Board has approved our very first Chapter fund-raiser. We were approached by Riverside Nature Center to co-sponsor their fall fund-raising event, Down By The Riverside (DBTR), which is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 2nd. This means we will share both the expenses and the profits of this event. Our responsibility will be to provide for all the educational-type activities, while the RNC will conduct the tree/plant sale, the food concession, canoe rides, etc. Since our May Day event was rained out, this is a great opportunity to re-schedule some of the speakers/exhibitors we had lined up. This year's DBTR promises to be great fun for the entire family with lots of special attractions, so mark your calendar now! The plant sale will run from 8 am to 3 pm, and the nature festival will run from 10 am to 3 pm. We'll be needing some volunteers that day, so stay tuned for details later this summer.</p>	<p>July Program The Natural Area Preservation Association & A Local Property, "Los Rincones" Our July program will be a presentation on "Los Rincones", by David Bezanson, the Texas State Manager for properties held by the Natural Area Preservation Society (NAPA) in Texas. Many of you are familiar with this property from our Chapter's Class of 2003 project there to build exclosures to protect young trees and trees trying to re-grow after the Sheppard-Rees fire in August 2000 from the browsing deer.</p>	<p>Article: Know Three of the Commonest snakes of the Hill Country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEXAS RAT SNAKE (<i>Elaphe obsoleta lindheimeri</i>) • WESTERN COACHWHIP (<i>Masticophis flagellum testaceus</i>) • TEXAS GARTER SNAKE (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis annectens</i>) <p>Article: Black Witch Moth Sighting (<i>Ascalapha odorata</i>) by Maggie Tatum</p> <p>MASTER NATURALIST CERTIFICATIONS FOR 2004 At our July meeting, Sharon Corley will achieve certification as Texas Master Naturalist, and Edna Platte will achieve re-certification as a Master Naturalist. This will make 21% of our 47 members that are certified so far in 2004. Congratulations to Sharon and Edna!</p> </p>

<p>Second, the Board approved a Chapter FAQ (frequently asked questions) which is a handy reference sheet about our Chapter activities. A big thanks to Bob Richie for working this up for us. The FAQ is being sent out to all the new fall class members, and we will have copies available at the July meeting for current members and visitors. Third, the Board approved 13 applications for the fall class and will be considering another 10-12 at our July Board meeting. Once again we will have a full class of eager folks from all over our service area. And thanks to Betty Thomas, who has volunteered to lead our mentoring effort, these new class members will be paired with current members to help them feel welcome. In addition, we're planning a special reception for the class at our August meeting (more about that next month) . Hope you're having a great summer so far!</p>		
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>August 2004</p>		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña Our 2004 training class is an impressive group of folks and I hope all of you will join me in welcoming them at our special reception before this month's chapter meeting on August 23rd. Just to give you a quick glance at our newest members before you meet them (and they meet each other!), here's a bit about each one: From Bandera County: George Allen is a retired auditor from "the big city" who's looking forward to learning about our native resources; Benjamin Eldredge is a ranch manager with a B.A. degree in Environmental Science; Ronald Hood is retired from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service where he was a wildlife biologist and refuge manager; Scott Magee and his wife, Sandra Magee are both very active in the Native Plant Society, Bandera Chapter, and pursue wildlife management on their property north of Medina; and Robert Wehmeyer is a former attorney whose areas of interest include outdoor education and field research. From Gillespie County: Dan Behringer lives in Harper and serves on the LCRA Pedernales River Advisory Panel; Sally Brown homeschools her two children and volunteers for the</p>	<p>August Program: Butterfly Gardening Our August program will be a presentation on "Butterfly Gardening" by our Master Naturalist Chapter member Billy Walker. He will discuss the large, colorful butterflies that frequent his gardens throughout the warm weather season, and the flowers that attract the various species. Billy will show us the Giant Swallowtail, Gulf Fritillary, Queen, Sulfurs and the Monarch, as well as their respective caterpillars and their host plants.</p>	<p>Down By the Riverside - A Nature Festival and Native Plant Sale - As Sandy noted in her President's Message last month, our Chapter is co-sponsoring "Down By the Riverside" with Riverside Nature Center on October 2nd as our first fundraising activity. This will be a fun-filled, educational event for our communities, with programs for all family members. We will have many of the excellent presentations our Chapter had scheduled for our Nature Fair in the City Park earlier this year that was unfortunately rained out.</p> <p>MASTER NATURALIST CERTIFICATIONS FOR 2004 At our August meeting, Lonnie Childs and Nancy Vaughan will achieve certification as Texas Master Naturalists and Julia Campbell will achieve re-certification. This will make 28% of our 47 members that are certified so far in 2004.</p> <p>Article: Know the Most Common VENOMOUS SNAKE in the Hill Country WESTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE</p>

<p>Texas Hill Country Youth Choir; Cheryl Griebenow, aka “The Cowgirl Concierge”, manages recreational ranches and implements wildlife management plans for clients;</p>		<p>Crotalus atrox Know a Very Common Non-Venomous Snake in the Hill Country Eastern Blackneck Garter Snake Thamnophis cyrtopsis ocellatus</p>
<p>PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>September 2004</p>		
<p>President’s Message by Sandy Peña Our Chapter is now coming to the end of its third year, and we have much to celebrate. With this year’s fall training class, we now have over seventy members and the enthusiasm has never been better. With the growth of our Chapter, your Board recognizes the need for its structure to evolve as well. The Board was initially established in 2001 with the following elected officers: President, VP of Training, VP of Communications and PR, VP of Programs and Projects, Secretary/VP of Membership, and Treasurer. (At that time, there were no State program by-laws to chapters to follow.) Each of the four VPs has at least two committee chairmen reporting to them. Last year, we added a one-year position for a Class Representative, and we also approved a policy that no member could serve more than two consecutive years in the same position. This year, after much deliberation, the State MN program has finally established a set of statewide By-laws for chapters. These new bylaws call for only four elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Chapters may add appointed Directors for the various standing committees as they see fit. The By-laws also specify that the Past President be a member of the Board, and serve as chair of the Nominating Committee. Your Board recently voted unanimously to implement the new By-laws for the election process we are about to undergo this fall. We also voted to establish the following standing committees: Director of Membership, Director of Communications, Director of Class Training, Director of Volunteer Service, and Director of Advanced Training. (The By-laws specify that the Vice President shall chair</p>	<p>September Program: A Spacecraft Tour of the solar system Our September program will be “A Spacecraft Tour of the Solar System” by Dr. John Dietrich, who enjoyed a 25 year career at NASA. Manned and unmanned spacecraft missions during the past four decades have acquired images of most major and many minor objects in our Solar System. Images captured by spacecraft near these objects reveal details that cannot be seen from Earth using the largest telescopes. Studies of surface features on the planets and smaller objects have greatly increased our knowledge of the Solar System. These studies provide information that, together with other data acquired by the spacecraft missions, has put important constraints on our concept of Solar System development and on the early history of Earth.</p>	<p>Complimentary Newsletter Subscriptions Expire Many of our guests have been receiving complimentary subscriptions to our newsletter for several years to help them learn more about the activities of our Chapter. As of October, these complimentary subscriptions will end unless we receive a request to continue – in which case we would be happy to do so. Please contact our Vice President of Membership, Myrna Langford.</p> <p>MASTER NATURALIST CERTIFICATIONS for 2004 We are pleased to report that 30% of our 47 members have been certified or re-certified so far in 2004. Come to the September meeting to see who will be certified this month.</p>

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<p>the Program Committee, so there is not a separate Director for that position.) Each of these Directors will serve as Board members. We also voted to continue the policy of having a one-year Class Representative term for each succeeding training class. Each training class will elect its representative to the Board. These changes bring the total number of Board members from 7 to 11. The Board feels very positively about this expansion of the Board, in that it will give more members direct input into the Board's decisions.</p> <p>In keeping with the election process specified in the State By-laws, the Board has appointed me to head up the Nominating Committee and to select two additional ad-hoc members with Board approval. The two members who have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee are Bob Ritchie and Myrna Langford. This Committee will submit a slate of candidates for the four elected positions for next year. We will publish this slate in October's newsletter, and will vote on it at our last regular meeting of the year in November (In December, we hold a Holiday Covered-Dish Supper in place of a regular meeting). The new officers will assume their duties at the conclusion of that meeting. The Nominating Committee is also encouraged to recommend candidates for the appointed positions. If you are interested in becoming a candidate either for an elective office or for an appointed Director, please let Bob, Myrna or me know as soon as possible!</p>		
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>October 2004</p>		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña Despite early morning rain, our first chapter fundraiser was a great success. The 10th annual Down By The Riverside festival on Oct. 2nd, which we co-sponsored with the Riverside Nature Center, drew parents and kids of all ages to enjoy the many exhibitors, speakers, and workshops we offered. We sold lots of plants and lots of food, and nearly every child sported a cute face-painting. The Haile family, minus Lee, put on a great</p>	<p>October Program: Lichens and Fungi Our October program will be "Lichens and Fungi" by Patsy Anne Newbolt and Loine Fatheree of the Hunt Garden Club. They will provide background information and ways to identify these interesting life forms using specimens and slides. There will also be discussion of where lichen and fungi are found and how they are used.</p>	<p>Article: WESTERN COTTONMOUTH Akistrodon piscivorus leucostoma</p> <p>MASTER NATURALIST CERTIFICATIONS for 2004 At our September meeting, Barbara Lowenthal attained her 250 Volunteer Hour Milestone, and will be recognized with a Bronze Dragonfly at the State TMN meeting this</p>

<p>story-telling hour for kids of all ages. Bill Lindemann's presentation on Big Bend filled the Visitor's Center with an audience of 85!</p> <p>The keys to such a successful event are always the volunteers, and our Chapter members were out in force: we had 38 volunteers, including three of our advisory board members! Every one of you deserves a big hug for all the time and effort you donated before, during, and after the main event. Thanks to the following members for the great team effort:</p> <p>Jim and Priscilla Stanley spent a whopping amount of time organizing the tree/plant sale, and then working at it both Friday night and most of the day Saturday. Maggie Tatum (bats), Ed Gage (insects), Kip Kiphart (monarch larval monitoring), and Rufus Stephens (TPWD mammal skins) shared their expertise with folks.</p> <p>Scott Loveland put the UGRA aquarium on display. Scott Magee and Angelo Falzarano helped with parking. Scott May made the beautiful, hand-lettered event sign out front. Howard Platte, Bob Richie, Tracy Garofano, and Ken Ruark manned the admission table. Alice Bulechek, George Tinsley, Bobbie Livingston, and Jane Crone took care of our Chapter display and signed in the volunteers. Among the plant sale cashiers were John Rogers, Kim Whitaker, Milby Moore, Betty Gardner, Sharon Corley, and Bob Wehmeyer. Other members who served as plant sale docents were Gwynn Jackson, Julia Campbell, and Phyllis Muska. Taking care of the coffee, hot dogs and cold drinks were Edna Platte, Maggie Tatum, Dan Behringer, Joan Murphy, and Sandra Magee. Angelo also helped paddle the canoes, while Doug Bresler and Adele Junkin sold canoe ride tickets. Martha Kuper helped out with the Nature Fair and kid's activities. Jim Stanley manned the Plant Questions table all day, and never got stumped, I bet! Julie Campbell and Barbara Lowenthal helped put together the great workshop on native seeds. And a special thanks to John Rogers for helping recruit these</p>		<p>month. Gwynn Jackson achieved recertification as a Texas Master Naturalist for 2004.</p> <p>At our October meeting, Julia Campbell, Myrna Langford and Maggie Tatum will be recognized for attaining their 250 Volunteer Hour Milestones. Bob Ritchie will achieve his first certification as a Texas Master Naturalist and receive his Dragonfly pin. This will make 34% of our 47 members that have been certified so far in 2004.</p> <p>Congratulations to our newly certified and re-certified members! Gwynn and Bob have provided over 80 hours of volunteer service to their communities in 2004. Congratulations also go to our four new Bronze Dragonfly members! This award is for cumulative service over one's years of membership. The Bronze Dragonfly Milestone awards to Barbara, Julia, Myrna and Maggie jointly represent over 1000 hours of volunteer service to our communities, including projects such as working with the public at the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area (affectionately known as the "Bat Tunnel"), working at Nature Fairs, teaching school children as a Nature Guide, developing a native wildflower meadow, and being a Wildflower Docent at Riverside Nature Center, monitoring Monarch larva at Cibolo Nature Center and many other worthwhile projects. We celebrate these Milestones for the personal commitment they represent by our members. We also celebrate them for the tangible evidence the Milestones provide that our members are fulfilling the objectives of the Texas Master Naturalist program through so many excellent projects to share our knowledge and appreciation of nature with the folks in our communities. We hope that with our volunteer work, we are starting small ripples of interest in our natural resources that will spread though our communities.</p>
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<p>great volunteers. Of course, there were lots of RNC volunteers, and others, who worked equally hard to make the day a success; altogether we had over 80 folks helping out. Both organizations can be extremely proud of the cooperation and camaraderie shown by their members. Thank you each and every one for the outstanding volunteer effort!</p>		
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>November 2004</p>		
<p>President's Message by Sandy Peña This year's fifth annual TMN State meeting and Advanced Training at Mo Ranch was the largest one to date, with over 225 MNs who came from all over Texas. Our Chapter had 25 members in attendance, one of the largest Chapter groups there. We were the "host" Chapter, and I'd like to thank the members of our planning committee: Kathryn Harrison, Bob Richie, Mike Johnson, and Julia Campbell. In addition, a number of our members volunteered throughout the meeting, helping with registration, room hosts, speaker assistants, photo contest organizers, and anything else that was asked of us. The array of Advanced Training topics was terrific, everything from GPS training to Flying WILD. Each evening we had excellent roundtable discussions to share ideas and experiences among the Chapters on such topics as building camaraderie within the chapter, creating exemplary volunteer projects, developing Chapter applications for prospective members, and volunteer liability issues. Several of our members also participated in the State meeting's new volunteer project of installing a wildscape: you can see it at the TPWD's district office (in the same building as the DPS office) across from Albertson's on S. Hwy. 16. At the awards ceremony on Sunday morning, our Chapter's members did us proud: eight members received bronze dragonfly pins for achieving 250 cumulative volunteer hours (Maggie Tatum, Julia Campbell, Barbara Lowenthal, Angelo Falzarano, Sandy Peña, Myrna Langford, Jim Stanley,</p>	<p>November Program: Wildlife Management Tax Valuation Our November program will be "Wildlife Management Tax Valuation" by Kathy Leifeste, Appraiser for the Kerr Central Appraisal District for agricultural property. She will discuss the qualifications for, and the restrictions on, Wildlife Management Property Tax Valuation. Ms. Leifeste will also discuss the seven management practices that can be part of a Wildlife Management Plan. There will be plenty of time for questions after the presentation.</p> <p>year-END pot luck DINNER in the "Cowboy capital of the world!" Who: Master Naturalist and Spouse/Guest What: End-of-Year Pot Luck Dinner. When: Friday, December 3rd, 6:00 PM Social time: 6:30 PM Dinner Where: First United Methodist Church at 404 Eleventh St in Bandera Our Chapter will hold its annual Pot Luck Dinner on Friday, December 3rd with the social time beginning at 6:00 PM, and dinner at 6:30 PM . The purpose of this event is to celebrate all that we have collectively accomplished over the past year with our learning about the natural world around us, the service we have provided to our communities, and the graduation of our Class of 2004. It will also be a wonderful time for socializing with members and their spouses or guests, and catching up on everyone's news. All Chapter members are invited, whether you are certified, working on becoming certified, or thinking about working toward certification, and especially our new Class of 2004.</p> <p>MASTER NATURALIST CERTIFICATIONS At our October meeting, Jim Stanley attained his 250 Volunteer Hour Milestone. At the State TMN meeting in October, our Chapter had 8</p>	<p>Election of 2005 Officers at November Meeting Our Chapter Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of candidates: President Jim Stanley Vice-President - Programs Sharon Corley Secretary Kathryn Harrison Treasurer Bob Richie At our November meeting, nominations will also be taken from the floor. Officers will then be elected. Our 2004 Board of Directors voted to modify the Board Structure to appoint Directors for various standing committees. The Past President is also a member of the Board. These changes are being made under the new State TMN Program By-laws, which were described more fully in Sandy Peña's "President's Message" in our September newsletter. The following members have accepted positions on the Board as described below. Past President Sandy Peña Director of Advanced Training Betty Thomas Director of Class Training Nancy Vaughan Director of Communications Phyllis Muska Director of Membership Priscilla Stanley Director of Volunteer Projects Ron Hood New Class Representative To be selected by the Class of 2004 The proposed Board has good representation from each Class. The Class distribution would be 5 members from the Class of 2002, 3 members from the Class of 2003, and 2 members from the Class of 2004.</p>

and Priscilla Stanley). Priscilla was recognized again with a silver dragonfly pin for achieving 500 cumulative volunteer hours. And **Kip Kiphart**, chairman of our Board Advisory Committee, was one of only four people state-wide to earn a pin for 2,500 cumulative volunteer hours.
Congratulations to all!

The highlight of the weekend was the keynote presentation and nature journaling session by **Dr. Fred Gehlbach**. Dr. Gehlbach, who is Professor Emeritus of Biology and Environmental Studies of Baylor University, talked about suburban sprawl and its effect on the nesting birds he has been studying for decades near his home in Waco. In fact, he has been studying the Eastern Screech-Owl for 40 years, which is now the longest continual study of a raptor species anywhere in the world. He was very engaging and spoke with a great sense of humor and a twinkle in his eye, but he made it clear that we humans need to come to terms with what we're doing to the planet and ourselves. Here in Texas, we have the highest rate of urban sprawl in the U.S., some 670 acres a day. So we Master Naturalists have our work cut out for us to educate the public about the benefits of responsible management of our natural resources. Dr. Gehlbach's nature journaling session was standing room only, and with good reason. He told us how he organizes his journals (he keeps two kinds: one for daily observations like weather, temperatures, other seasonal changes, and the other for specific projects like his Eastern Screech-Owl studies.) He recommended that we select a focus for our journaling such as birds, other wildlife, nest boxes, etc. or perhaps do seasonal records (early-late, first-last). But in all cases, he emphasized that we search for the repeated patterns, and watch for comparisons that will give us some sense of trends we are seeing on our land. His newest book is *Messages From The Wild: An Almanac of Suburban Natural and Unnatural History* (University of Texas Press, 2002). I highly recommend it!

members recognized for reaching their 250 Hour Milestone by receiving a Bronze Dragonfly, including **Julia Campbell, Angelo Falzarano, Myrna Langford, Barbara Lowenthal, Sandy Peña, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley and Maggie Tatum**. Our Chapter was proud to have more members reaching this Milestone this year than any other of the 23 TMN Chapters at the State meeting. A Silver Dragonfly was received by **Priscilla Stanley** for reaching her 500 Hour Milestone. Our TMN Advisor, **Kip Kiphart**, attained his 2500 Hour Milestone! This is a new award this year represented by a polished Silver Dragonfly. Congratulations to all Milestone celebrants. At our October meeting, **Teresa Lynn** achieved her first Certification. At our November meeting, **Angelo Falzarano** and **Howard Platte** will achieve their first Certification as Texas Master Naturalists and will receive their Dragonfly pins. Five of our members will achieve Recertification, including **Jane Crone, Barbara Lowenthal, Barbara Quinby, John Quinby, and Wilma Teague**, and will receive their 2004 Frog pin. Congratulations to all our newly Certified members. This will make 49% of our 47 members that have been certified so far in 2004. The Annual State meeting may have contributed to this surge in certifications since it offered both Advanced Training and Volunteer opportunities.

The proposed Board distribution by county would be 50% from Gillespie, 30% from Kerr and 20% from Bandera. This compares favorably with our Chapter distribution of 32% from Gillespie, 33% from Kerr, 24% from Bandera, and 11% from Kendall (half of whom are in the Class of 2004). Thanks go to our Nominating Committee, comprised of **Myrna Langford, Bob Ritchie** and **Sandy Peña**, for their diligent search to identify the proposed slate of new officers.

LAND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Jim Stanley reports that the new **Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP)** training has been completed. Between 17 and 21 Master Naturalists attended each session of lectures and field trips with 10 different experts on a variety of topics. A total of 624 Advanced Training hours were earned. We hope to begin making site visits to landowner's properties early next year.

Article: BOUNTIFUL FALL BUTTERFLIES

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As this year comes to an end, so does my time as President of this remarkable Chapter. It has truly been a privilege and an honor to have that responsibility, and it has enriched my life in so many ways. Thank you ALL for your friendship and support along the way. Best wishes to the Officers and Directors of the new Board—I'll be there to cheer you on!		
December 2005		
	A Newsletter was not published in December 2004	
2005		
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
January 2005		
President's Message	Activities	Noted
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley First, let me take this opportunity to again thank Sandy and the rest of the previous Board for doing such an outstanding job of guiding our Chapter during its initial two years. We are fortunate to have a very active, engaged, and growing membership, which I am sure is due largely to their leadership. Along with the current Board, I will be trying very hard to maintain the vigor and enthusiasm of the Chapter in the coming months. You should have received a questionnaire I sent to everyone earlier this month. If you did not receive one, please let me know. If you have not responded, please do so ASAP. The Board is reviewing our Chapter's monthly meeting time, place, and content and we want your views and ideas to be included. This is your chance to suggest changes to our monthly meetings more to your liking. Just so everyone knows who the new Board members are and what their duties are, so you can contact the appropriate person anytime with your questions or comments, here is the list of 2005 Board</p>	<p>January 2005 Program At our January 24 meeting, Claire Vaughan, Bob Peterson and Sam Mason of the Images for Conservation Fund (ICF) and the Pro Tour of Wildlife Photography will present a slide show of winning wildlife photos from the Valley Land Trust Wildlife Photography contests. ICF and the Pro-Tour were created with the goal of fostering the nature photography tourism industry as a long-term benefit for private landowners, rural economies, nature photographers, and the wildlife of North America. This program will be held on Monday, January 24 at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St, in Kerrville, beginning with a social time at 6:30pm. The meeting and program begin at 7:00pm. The meeting is free, and the public is invited to attend. We hope that you can join us.</p> <p>Articles Article: Winter Garden Reflections by Julia Campbell Article: Got Cedar Fever? (A homeopathic remedy)</p>	<p>Jim Stanley took over as President beginning in 2005. The chapter met at Riverside Nature Center.</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Our chapter held its annual pot luck dinner on Friday, December 3rd in Bandera. This event offered a great opportunity to celebrate all that we as a chapter have accomplished over the past year with our learning about the natural world around us, the service we have provided to our communities, and the graduation of our Class of 2004. We had a great turnout, and it was a wonderful time for socializing with members and their spouses or guests. Food was delicious and plentiful, and Lee Haile and his family regaled us all with their accomplished story telling. In December, Ed Gage, Ron Hood and Marilyn Murrman achieved first certification. Ann Creel, Kathryn Harrison, Karen Johnson, Michael Johnson, John Rogers, Betty Thomas, George Tinsley, Kim Whitaker and Kay White were recertified. For the year 2004, our Chapter had twelve</p>

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<p>members. If in doubt as to which is the most appropriate person, just contact me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Corley, VP/Programs • Kathryn Harrison, Secretary • Ronald Hood, Director of Volunteer Projects • Wanda Mattarocci, 2004 Class Representative • Phyllis Muska, Director of Communications • Sandy Pena, Past President • Bob Richie, Treasurer • Jim Stanley, President • Priscilla Stanley, Director of Membership • Betty Thomas, Director of Advanced Training • Nancy Vaughan, Director of Class Training • Also, Roy Walston, Kerr County Extension Agent, and Amy Sugeno of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Old Tunnel Wildlife Area, have agreed to be our advisors for the coming year. <p>Riverside Nature Center (RNC) is working on a plan to establish a closer working relationship with several other groups, including our MN chapter. You will be hearing more about this in the future, but I would like to remind everyone that RNC, along with other parks and nature centers, provides us with much needed help by way of meeting facilities, nature trails, arboreta, prairies, and other “native areas” that are invaluable to us. We owe all of these places our support and our time.</p>		<p>certifications and 23 recertifications, so 74% of our members were Certified Texas Master Naturalists in 2004. Quite an achievement! And our chapter had eight bronze milestones and one silver milestone for the year.</p> <p>Phyllis Muska, the new Director of Communications took over from Priscilla Stanley as the editor of the newsletter.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>February 2005</p>		
<p>President’s Message by Jim Stanley The results of the questionnaire we sent out last month are in. It appears that most of you are generally satisfied with the monthly meetings, but we did get some directions for improvement. A clear, but not huge, majority favors the evening meetings over a daytime meeting, and Mondays seem to be as good for everyone as any other day. Therefore, we will continue to have most of our monthly meetings at the same time (6:30pm, fourth Monday) and place (Riverside Nature Center in</p>	<p>February Program Our February program will be Firewise Landscaping by Jan Fulkerson of the Texas Forest Service. She has been with TFS since 2001, managing their Wildfire Preparedness Education Program. Before that she was the tree planting coordinator for the City of Austin.</p> <p>Advanced Training Opportunities: Hummingbird Festival in Junction</p>	<p>Articles Article: Asian Lady Beetles by by Ed Gage</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos At the January meeting, Ed Gage and Ron Hood were recognized for achieving their first certification. Ann Creel, Mike Johnson, John Rogers, and George Tinsley were recertified. Congratulations to all our recently</p>

<p>Kerrville) as we have in the past. Because a number of you indicated a desire to have occasional meetings in the other counties, we will have some meetings outside of Kerr County. Many of you indicated a desire to have field trips, and the desire to have the meetings be Advanced Training (AT) events was almost unanimous. So we will occasionally have field trips, and we will try to make sure that some of the meetings are AT. Thanks to all who shared your thoughts with the Board. We continue to solicit any ideas or concerns you have. In terms of reporting volunteer hours, we now find that we do not need specific dates recorded for a particular project, but rather just the total number of hours you spent on that project for each month. So, for example, if you spent three hours on project A on January 5, six hours on January 10, and two hours on January 23, just report eleven hours for January for that project and don't include the individual dates. Also, please save your own records of both your volunteer hours and AT hours – don't discard your records after you have submitted them to Tracy. We may need some information at the end of the year that the database is not programmed to give us, so we may need to get back to you for that information later. If anyone receives a request to make a presentation to another organization about Master Naturalists, please contact me before you make the presentation. We want to be sure we are all speaking with one voice in terms of how we present the Chapter to others, and I may have some material that will be helpful to you as well.</p>	<p>Texas Tech University Center at Junction is sponsoring a Hummingbird Festival March 19 from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Advanced training hours will be awarded to participants.</p> <p>Cibolo Nature Center Cedar Biology and Management--Hill Country Land Stewards – Saturday, February 26, 9:00am – 2:00pm Honey Creek Water Conservation--Hill Country Land Stewards – Saturday, March 5, 8:00am-2:00pm.</p> <p>New Curriculum Available The new standardized curriculum to be implemented statewide is now available. To purchase a copy of the workbook (\$30), contact Nancy Vaughan.</p> <p>Our New Advisors Amy Sugeno is the area manager and biologist at Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area. She has been at Old Tunnel for a little over one year and with Texas Parks & Wildlife for four years. For the past twelve years,</p> <p>Roy Walston, Kerr County extension agent, is responsible for agriculture and natural resource educational programming for Texas Cooperative Extension in Kerr County. He moved here from Crockett County 2½ years ago, and has also served as county extension agent in Wise, Hall, San Saba, and Crockett Counties.</p>	<p>certified/recertified members!</p> <p>Kip Kiphart, our 2004 chapter advisor, has transferred his Master Naturalist membership from the Alamo Chapter in San Antonio to the Hill Country chapter. We're happy to welcome Kip as a regular! Sandy Pena has been named to the Texas Master Naturalist state advisory committee, which has overall responsibility for the creation, development, and management of the Texas Master Naturalist Program, through such activities as chapter management and training guidelines, program marketing and promotion, curriculum development, and other chapter resources. Congratulations, Sandy – it's good to know our chapter will have a voice on issues at the state level!</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>March 2005</p>		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley The State Master Naturalist Office has changed the "Hold Harmless" agreement that we all signed when we first applied to take the Master Naturalist course. The reasons given were not clear. The State Office is strongly encouraging, but apparently not absolutely requiring, all of us to sign the new form. For the next few months we will have copies available at our monthly meetings, field</p>	<p>March Program Our March program will feature some of our chapter members as presenters. A representative from each county, as well as one cross-county project sponsor, will talk about a project or two they are involved in, giving other chapter members an idea of the available volunteer opportunities near them. It should be fun and informative for all of us.</p> <p>LAND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</p>	<p>Riverside Nature Center Announces Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series Just bag it! The Riverside Nature Center introduced its Brown Bag Lunch and Learn series with a program on Why Birds Need Native Plants by Kay Charter, Executive Director of Saving Birds through Habitat, on Thursday, March 10.</p>

<p>trips and other MN gatherings for you to sign. After that, we can e-mail the new form to anyone who has not signed it. Sorry for the hassle, and thanks for your cooperation. We – Priscilla and I – now have a web site that has a number of articles on various Hill Country ecology topics that might be of interest to MNs. Most of these articles were written to help educate the residents of Tierra Linda Ranch on various ecology and range science issues, but should apply to most of our four-county area. There is also a collection of photos to help folks identify some common Hill Country trees and shrubs. The address is www.hillcountrynaturalist.org , not to be confused with our Chapter web site which is www.hillcountrymasternaturalist.org .</p> <p>We have just begun to publicize our new volunteer project, the Land Management Assistance Program. Below is a copy of the text of a flyer that has been distributed to a few places in Kerr County so far. By the time you read this, there should have been an article in the Kerrville paper about the program. If you know of anyone (including yourselves) who would be interested in having volunteers come visit their property, please have them call Riverside as directed below.</p>	<p>The Hill Country Chapter of the TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS will provide trained volunteers to visit your property to help you identify trees, shrubs and grasses, and to discuss your goals, plans and concerns. We can help you identify potential land use problems, discuss good land stewardship practices that might apply to your property, and recommend restoration methods if needed. We can also provide you with lists of various government experts and additional sources of information. For a FREE volunteer consultation on your property, in Bandera, Gillespie, Kendall or Kerr Counties, call Riverside Nature Center at 830 257 4837 and ask for the Master Naturalist Land Management Assistance Program.</p>	<p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos</p> <p>Jim Stanley reached his 2005 certification in March. Congratulations, Jim! Thanks to Jim and Priscilla Stanley for bringing refreshments to our February meeting. Barbara Lowenthal and Marilyn Murrman will be bringing refreshments to the March meeting.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>April 2005</p>		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley Just to give everyone a "heads-up", the Texas Cooperative Extension requires most all of their employees to have a background screen as part of their Youth Protection program. Since they are one of our sponsors, they have decided to expand that requirement to the Master Naturalists as well. The details have not been finalized, but it appears that any Master Naturalist who has, or expects to have, direct contact with children may have to have a background check in the near future, if they have not already had such a screen via another organization. The kind of screening we are talking about is similar to that required of teachers and youth program (Boy/Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc) volunteers. As far as we know now, if you do not wish to work with youth, it won't affect</p>	<p>April Program Our topic for the April meeting is An Overview of Central Texas Archeology and Prehistory. Our presenter will be Dr. Grant Hall, the academic director of Texas Tech University at Junction. Hall is an archeologist (PhD, Harvard) who moved to Junction two months ago from TTU's anthropology department.</p>	

<p>you. As mentioned before, the State Office is looking into a different system for maintaining records of volunteer service and advanced training. In the meantime, please continue to report your hours as before, but also please keep your own records. Also, whenever you accumulate the required number of volunteer and advanced training hours for (re) certification, please notify Priscilla at jpbstan@kctc.com or 830 257 2094. As a result of the Kerrville Daily Times article last month, we have had a number of requests for our Land Management Assistance Program. We have now visited a dozen properties ranging from 1 to 100 acres, involving a total of over 300 acres and 5 different Master Naturalists. We have requests for visits to another 6 properties. On a personal note, Priscilla and I just returned from a week in Big Bend National Park. I have been going there for 40 years, but I have never seen it as beautiful as it was last week. It is amazing what a little rain can do to the desert!</p>		
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>May 2005</p>		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley First, I want to thank Phyllis Muska and Ginny deWolf for putting together our new Chapter display board – it's really nice. If you haven't seen it, it means you didn't attend the Cibolo Plant Sale, the Riverside Earth Day, or our last monthly Chapter meeting, so shame on you! I also want to thank the volunteers who tended the display at both Cibolo and Riverside – we had a good response both places. Ron Hood could use some help staffing the display at the Bandera Home and Landscape Show on May 21, so if you can help, contact Ron. We have just sent out a record number of applications for our next class this fall, and we predict a record number of students for the new class. This means we can expect a healthy growth rate for our Chapter, more educated Hill Country Naturalists, more volunteers, etc. all good things. So y'all keep spreading the word. The State Master Naturalist Meeting will again be held at Mo Ranch in October. We need someone to</p>	<p>Meetings were still held at Riverside Nature Center</p> <p>Article: Dark Skies</p> <p>Article: Earth Day at Riverside Nature Center Saturday, April 23 - A fun-filled and informative day for the whole family! Save the planet, start in Kerr County!</p> <p>Article: Wildlife Field Research Days at Cibolo Nature Center Plan now for Cibolo Nature Center's Wildlife Field Research Days coming up on May 5, 6 and 7.</p> <p>Nature Quest River Ecology Series Paddlers and river enthusiasts will be happy to know that it's time for the Texas Hill Country River Region's 6th Annual Nature Quest festival, April 26 – May 1. The festival is headquartered in Concan, Texas, with field trips, workshops, seminars, and evening programs all over the Hill Country area's scenic rivers, private lands, and parks. Expert instructors teach</p>	<p>Article: Texas Birds and Birders Birdwatchers make a pretty big flock:</p> <p>Now Accepting Applications for 2005 Class! The Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program is beginning its 2005 membership application period, which will run through July 15. The classes will run from August 31 through November 16 – twelve weeks of training scheduled on Wednesday mornings, plus three Saturday field trips. This year's fee will be \$95, which covers all class materials including the reference notebook. If you know anyone who might be interested in applying, have them contact Priscilla Stanley, Chapter Membership Chairman, at 830 257 2094.</p> <p>Fredericksburg Nativescapes Garden Tour This year's Fredericksburg Nativescapes Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, May 21, from 10:00am–5:00pm.</p>

<p>organize a bonfire get-together one night at the meeting, so if you'd like to volunteer, please contact Sandy Pena.</p> <p>In our ever-changing procedures for reporting and keeping volunteer and advanced training hours, we have now determined that keeping the travel time and the volunteer time separate is a waste of time. So from now on, when reporting volunteer hours, please total the actual volunteer time and your travel time together and report a single number. This should make it easier for you and for Tracy. Just a reminder; travel time is not counted for advanced training events, only for volunteer hours.</p> <p>Quote of the month: "The major problems in the world today are the result of the difference between the way nature works and the way people think . . ." Gregory Bateson</p>	<p>about birds, butterflies, dragonflies, insects, bats, wildflowers, native plants, big trees, reptiles, geology, archeology, and aquatic life.</p> <p>New Certification Rule in Place Sandy Peña attended the semi-annual Volunteer Representatives Council in March, and a new policy regarding Master Naturalist certification was announced. New TMNs who get certified during their initial 15-month period may also earn that current year's pin if they meet a second set of requirements (40 volunteer hours and 8 AT hours) during that same period. This policy will be retroactive, so any members who meet the criteria and wish to earn a second-year pin should contact Sandy.</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos New certifications from the Class of '04 include Virginia deWolf, Adele Junkin, Sandra Magee, and Scott Magee. Sandy Peña and Jim Stanley have not only recertified for 2005, but have reached the 500-hour milestone: That's 500 cumulative hours of volunteer service since becoming Master Naturalists! Sandy and Jim will receive their Silver Dragonfly pins at the State Meeting in October. Jane Crone, Angelo Falzarano, Tracy Garofano, Ron Hood, Barbara Lowenthal, Jim Stanley and Priscilla Stanley also recertified for 2005. Note that Ron is the first person to re-certify based on the new TMN State policy which requires a minimum of 80 hours of Volunteer service and 16 hours of Advanced Training within the first 15 months to achieve certification/recertification. Congratulations to all our newly certified and recertified members!</p>	<p>Sponsored by the Fredericksburg Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), the tour features five residential gardens in the Fredericksburg area. The native and xeriscape gardens on this year's tour include both urban and rural settings, with landscape designs ranging from structured to wildscapes in a variety of soil types: NPSOT members, along with volunteer docents and some garden owners, will be at each site to answer questions.</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Thanks to Cheryl Griebenow and Wilma Teague for bringing refreshments to our April meeting. Sign up now for July, August, and September meetings – sign-up sheet available at Enchanted Rock trip in May, or contact Wanda Mattarocci.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>June 2005</p>		
<p>There was no President's Message for June 2005</p>	<p>June Program Our June program will be a presentation on cavity nesters by Mark Klym, an information specialist with the Wildlife Science, Research and Diversity Program at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Klym is also a former board member of the Texas Bluebird Society. Klym will discuss some of the common cavity nesting birds (both primary and secondary users) found in Texas, and how we can modify our landscaping habits to allow for and encourage these birds in our backyards.</p> <p>Nature Nights at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin is hosting Nature Nights, a special series designed to take advantage of longer summer days and</p>	<p>Articles Article: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly This is the time of year when we see all kinds of caterpillars and worms in our trees and our landscapes, and it's not always easy telling the good guys from the bad.</p> <p>If Trees Could Talk by Susan Sander, Master Tree-Hugger As naturalists we look for stories that tell us about the history of the land. So we search for clues in river banks, road cuts and growth rings of trees. Unfortunately, to study a tree 'cookie' one needs to cut the tree down</p>

	<p>cooler summer nights. The series will be held every Thursday throughout July from 5:30-9:00 pm - free for members and just \$1 per person for non-members.</p> <p>Membership Applications Still Available, But Time Is Growing Short! The deadline for 2005 membership applications is July 15. All applications must be postmarked on or before this date. We encourage prospective members to submit applications as soon as possible. A check for \$95 must accompany the application. Anyone interested in becoming a Texas Master Naturalist should send name, postal mailing address and e-mail (or phone number) to Priscilla Stanley, Chapter Membership Chairman, at jpbstan@kctc.com or 830 257 2094. You can also contact Priscilla if you have any questions about the Texas Master Naturalist program or the Hill Country Chapter application process.</p>	<p>Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Betty Gardner, Cynthia Johnson and Phyllis Muska received their 2004 certifications in May, and Alice Bulechek, Sharon Corley and Bob Richie were recertified for 2005. These Master Naturalists qualified for special first year recertifications under the new guidelines: Ginny deWolf and Phyllis Muska – 2005 Blue Kingfisher Nancy Vaughan – 2004 Green Frog Sandy Pena, Jim Stanley and Priscilla Stanley – 2003 Texas Star Ron Hood and Bob Richie reached the 250 volunteer service hour milestone for a bronze dragonfly. Congratulations to all these achievers!</p>
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
July 2005		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley When we surveyed our Chapter membership last winter, we found that many of you wanted at least some of our monthly meetings to be counted as advanced training (AT), so attendance would count toward the eight hours of AT we all need each year. The Board has considered this and related issues and formulated a new policy regarding our monthly meetings and advanced training. Beginning with our August meeting, and for every monthly meeting after that, the Board will make a determination at the regular Board Meeting after the monthly meeting in question whether or not the previous meeting can be considered AT. If so, then if you attended that meeting you may count the attendance as AT time. Whether or not a presentation qualifies as AT depends on two things: the topic in question and the level of the presentation. Some topics presented at some of our monthly meetings are not on a subject that represents advanced training for a Master Naturalist. They may be interesting, fun and/or entertaining, but not really academically advanced training. Other</p>	<p>July Program The July 25 chapter meeting will also be our annual picnic. We will meet at Old Tunnel at 6:30pm, have dinner and hear a presentation from Amy Sugeno. Then we'll wait for the bats to emerge, which should be somewhere between 8:00 and 8:50pm.</p>	<p>Articles Article: Gardening in the Hill Country by Elizabeth Drozda-Freeman, LCRA Those of us lucky enough to live in this part of the world must accept the price we pay for beautifully mild January weather – scorchingly hot, dry summers. In response to the question, "What should I be doing in the yard in July?" The answer is, "Not very much!"</p> <p>Perseid Meteor Showers and Mars Approach Got the summer blahs? How about a nap during the heat of the day to prepare you for some late night stargazing?</p>

<p>presentations do not qualify as advanced training because the level or depth of the presentation is too elementary or because the material presented is largely repetitious of topics most MNs have already seen before. It is not always possible, however, to determine in advance exactly what a given speaker will cover and in what depth. Therefore, determining in advance if a given monthly meeting qualifies as AT is not possible, but our experience is that some meetings clearly do so qualify. Therefore, in the future, the Board will make a determination after the meeting and notify all via a subsequent newsletter if attendance at that meeting is eligible for AT credit. The fact that this may encourage greater attendance at monthly meetings, is of course, just icing on the cake. So, see you at the next monthly meeting???</p>		
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>August 2005</p>		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley During the State Master Naturalist Meeting at the Mo Ranch last October, there was a state meeting project to landscape the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department building (on Route 16 in Kerrville, across from Albertsons) with native plants. MNs from around the state worked all afternoon on this project and planted a lot of native shrubs and flowers, and it looked quite nice. A sign was also erected noting that the work had been done by the Master Naturalists. Unfortunately, that was the last thing done with the area, period, until a couple of weeks ago. You might imagine that the garden is not in great shape now, and that it is somewhat of an embarrassment to Master Naturalists and to our chapter. We have had similar problems with other projects that require ongoing work, in that people are excited to do the initial project, but then become less enthusiastic about maintaining the project. The Board has decided we will no longer approve any volunteer project that will require ongoing volunteer hours unless there is a plan to provide the appropriate level of volunteer effort. Like many other things in life, it is not</p>	<p>August Program The August program of the Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter will be Bird Behavior by Dr. Kent Rylander, an ornithologist and retired Professor of Biological Sciences at Texas Tech University.</p> <p>Activities and Events New Bird Feeding Station at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park The Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center announced the installation of a new bird feeding station in Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park this summer. The project includes several different types of bird feeders and a water drip system, further enhancing the opportunities to view wildlife while visiting the park.</p> <p>Advanced Training Opportunities There will be a land stewardship seminar at Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne on Saturday, September 10, 8:30am–4:00pm. The seminar will emphasize Land and Water Conservation and feature fourteen speakers on a variety of topics, including Texas Hill Country geology, hydrology, native plants, landscaping, cedar management, livestock management, urban and suburban wildlife, oak wilt, rainwater catchment, water legislation and wildlife tax valuation.</p>	<p>Let's Welcome our Class of 2005 (roster) ! by Priscilla Stanley, Membership Chair Our new training class is an impressive group of 36 people selected from a record number of qualified applicants. I hope you will join me in welcoming them at our reception for the Class of 2005 before our August 22 meeting at 6:30pm. From Bandera County: Debra Boutwell Ruth Firsching From Bexar County: Lars Nielsen From Gillespie County: Dorothy Akers Gary Akers Brenda Boenig Steve Dodge Ann Kinney John Pardue Jerri Workman From Kendall County: Nyta Brown</p>

<p>the glamorous, showy one-time activities that really matter, but the day-by-day routine effort that really makes a difference. Once the garden is brought back into shape, it should require only occasional (but regular) maintenance. If you would be interested in working in this garden occasionally, please e-mail Priscilla at jpbstan@kctc.com. You will not only save the garden, but also our collective Master Naturalist face. Just so everyone knows, in spite of moving the new class meeting room to the Lions Camp, a larger facility, and expanding the class size from the previous 25 to 36, we still had more applicants this year than we could accommodate. So it looks like we are on the road to significantly increasing our chapter membership, thanks mainly to all of you talking to friends and serving as good examples and role models. Anyone interested in acting as a mentor to be available when a new class member has questions or needs information, please call Priscilla at 830 257 2094.</p>	<p>The speaker lineup features Bill Carr, Mark Duff, Robert Edmonson, Brent Evans, Richard Heilbrun, David Langford, Bob Lyons, Pat McNeal, Michael O'Brien, George Ozuna, Mark Peterson, David Pipes, Rufus Stephens, and Bill Ward.</p> <p>New Volunteer Opportunities! Looking for a new way to earn more volunteer hours? We currently have openings for two important chapter functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a historian to maintain the chapter scrapbook, and • someone to do updates of the database repository for volunteer and training hours. <p>No experience is necessary for either position, although a working knowledge of Access would be helpful for the database position. Training will be provided as needed. If you are interested in taking on the scrapbook project, please contact Phyllis Muska. If you would like to be our database manager, contact Tracy Garofano.</p>	<p>Cathy Downs Dawn Fidaleo Robert Keiser Lad Mingus Nan Ryman-Mingus From Kerr County: Otis Fox Bill Frodyma Jim Gardner Guy Harrison Maeve Elliot Hughes Barbara Kana Michelle Kana Clarise Kehoe Susan Longacre Diane McMahan Barbara Terry Noblin Courtney Qualtrough Donald Robinson Donna Snow Robinson Peggy McClain Robinson Janice Sue Ross Rebecca Shupp Bob Tanner Nina Wagner</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos New certifications from the class of 2004 include Dan Behringer and Doug Bresler. Julia Campbell, Myrna Langford, and Maggie Tatum have all recertified for 2005. Priscilla Stanley reached her 1000-hour milestone for a gold dragonfly. Barbara Lowenthal and Ron Hood are both receiving silver dragonfly awards for attaining their 500-hour milestones. Congratulations to all this summer's achievers!</p>
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
September 2005		
President's Message by Jim Stanley	September Program	Complimentary Newsletter Subscriptions Expire

<p>As this is written, we have already had the first training day for our Class of 2005. We have 36 bright, eager, interesting and interested folks who will make a great addition to our Chapter. We welcome them and look forward to getting to know them all.</p> <p>We have scheduled three advanced training classes for this fall, open to all Hill Country Chapter members, including new class members. They are all plant identification classes, taught by Chapter members, and we hope this is just the beginning of such activities. They are all to be held at the Texas Lions camp on Route 27, beginning at 1:00pm and lasting until at least 4:00pm. The schedule is as follows: FORB IDENTIFICATION, October 5. Taught by Scott and Sandra Magee. WOODY PLANT IDENTIFICATION, October 12. Taught by Jim and Priscilla Stanley. GRASS IDENTIFICATION, November 2. Taught by Jim Stanley.</p> <p>If you would like to come to any or all of these classes, please e-mail me at jstmn@kctc.com, so we will know how many to expect at each class.</p>	<p>Our September program will be a SKYWARN PUBLIC WEATHER SAFETY PRESENTATION by Larry Eblen, a meteorologist and National Weather Service (NWS) forecaster.</p> <p>Events Bamberger Ranch and Native American Seed Donations Our Fall 2005 class has begun, and the list of guest lecturers is impressive. We always like to acknowledge the time and effort these speakers put into their presentations for our chapter, and this year we have a few nice extras to include in their ‘goody’ bags. David and Margaret Bamberger of Selah/Bamberger Ranch Preserve have contributed gift certificates for guest tours of their exemplary ranch and preserve near Johnson City. Any of you who have had occasion to take a class or a tour at Selah know what a special treat this will be for our presenters! (See our Calendar section for several upcoming classes at Selah and a link to their web site.)</p> <p>Nature Writers of Texas A web site featuring the archived works of a number of Texas authors, including our chapter’s good friend Bill Lindemann, is now online. Check it out at http://texasnature.blogspot.com. Over a dozen authors have contributed on topics ranging from birds to butterflies to native plants, snow to hurricanes, millipedes to skunks and bats.</p>	<p>Many of our guests have been receiving complimentary subscriptions to our newsletter to help them learn more about the activities of our Chapter. As of October, these complimentary subscriptions will end unless we receive a request to continue – in which case we would be happy to do so. If you are not a member of the Chapter but wish to continue receiving our newsletter, please contact our Director of Membership, Priscilla Stanley, at jpbstan@kctc.com.</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos John and Barbara Quinby have re-certified for 2005 by completing 40 hours of approved volunteer service and 8 hours of approved advanced training this year. They will receive their Blue Kingfisher pins at our September meeting. Nancy Vaughan has reached her 250-hour milestone – 250 cumulative volunteer hours since she became a Master Naturalist in the Class of 2003. She will receive her Bronze Dragonfly at the State TMN meeting in October. Thanks to Edna and Howard Platte and Maggie Tatum for bringing refreshments to our August meeting. Betty Gardner and Kim Whitaker are providing refreshments for the September meeting.</p>
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
October 2005		
<p>President’s Message by Jim Stanley At the last meeting, the Board voted to allow advanced training (AT) credit for Kent Rylander’s presentation on “Bird Behavior” at our August meeting, so if you attended that meeting you can add 1.5 hours of AT to your records. The Board will consider the September 26 presentation by Larry Eblen at our October Board meeting.</p> <p>It has come to our attention that some folks are unaware of, or have not availed themselves of, the large body of information contained on our Chapter web site. So here is a partial list of the information contained in the website at www.hillcountrymasternaturalist.org.</p>	<p>October Program Our October program will be Using Native Plants for a Successful Conservation Landscape presented by Elizabeth Drozda-Freeman, a conservation landscape specialist with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). She will focus on native plants that are commercially available and work well in the Texas Hill Country, as well as how to create a successful landscape</p> <p>Events Holiday Party Plans Hey, HCMNs, mark your calendars now for the chapter's fourth annual holiday get-together and awards ceremony. This year we've decided to do</p>	<p>Articles Article: Gardening in the Hill Country by Elizabeth Drozda-Freeman It’s time to get out in the yard again. Many of us rush to local nursery and garden centers to buy plants in March and April when the weather warms. But fall is for planting too.</p> <p>Seen Any Horned Lizards Lately? A 2004 survey by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) indicates that the Texas Horned Lizard species is holding its own throughout much of the state. While sightings are still fairly rare, they are being reported in many counties</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A calendar of events for the upcoming month listing numerous organizational meetings and talks, many of which are approved AT; • The fall 2005 class training schedule; • Contacts for many organizations likely to be of interest to our members; • Current as well as past newsletters; • The list of approved volunteer projects; • Volunteer project guidelines; • Volunteer project proposal directions; • The Board minutes; and • Links to many interesting facts and articles. <p>In addition, the web site contains a list of current Board members and links to their e-mails as well as the Chapter mailing address (you will love the frog), so anyone wishing to contact any of the Board members on any topic can easily do so. It is hoped that the web site, this monthly newsletter, periodic e-mail messages and our monthly meetings keep you informed about what is happening in the Chapter. We all owe member Kim Whitaker, our Chapter web master, a huge debt of gratitude for establishing and maintaining this website. . . Thanks, Kim</p>	<p>a catered luncheon rather than have everyone bring a dish – no more spills in the car! When: Saturday, December 3 Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 318 High Street, Comfort Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm Details about the cost, menu, and directions will be sent out later. Spouses/guests are welcome. We hope every one of you will be there for the highlight of our chapter year! If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact one of the committee members: Sharon Corley, Nancy Vaughan, Myrna Langford, or Sandy Peña.</p> <p>LCRA Seeking Nominations for River Advisory Panels The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) is seeking 38 volunteers to be members of its nine advisory panels for the Highland Lakes and major tributary rivers, including the Pedernales River.</p> <p>Texas Tech at Junction Announces Winter Session The winter session at the Texas Tech University Center at Junction will offer a number of classes of interest to Master Naturalists, including Principles of Ecology, General Ornithology, Texas Prehistory and Archaeology, and Prescribed Burns. These classes will meet from December 26, 2005 until January 9, 2006</p>	<p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Joan Murphy from the Class of 2004 has completed requirements for first year certification and will receive her Dragonfly pin. Betty Gardner and Scott Magee, also from the Class of 2004, have qualified for their special first-year recertification by completing an additional forty volunteer hours and an additional eight hours of advanced training within their first fifteen months. They will receive Blue Kingfisher pins. Jane Crone, Kip Kiphart and Nancy Vaughan have re-certified for 2005 by completing forty hours of approved volunteer service and eight hours of approved advanced training this year and will receive their Blue Kingfisher pins. Sharon Corley and Alice Bulechek have reached their 250-hour milestones – 250 cumulative volunteer hours since becoming Master Naturalists. Their Bronze Dragonfly pins will be awarded at the State TMN meeting this month. John Quinby has been elected to the Riverside Nature Center board of directors. Congratulations to all these achievers!</p>
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
November 2005		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley Well, it is going to be a busy few weeks for our Chapter. The new class—the largest ever—will be doing their class project and graduating on November 16. We will have our last regular monthly meeting on November 28, with election of new officers. And on December 3, we will celebrate the holidays with all members, including the new class members. (Details on this event are given below.) Then on Friday, December 9, we are invited to a Tri-Chapter Holiday Party hosted by the Alamo Area Chapter at Cibolo Nature Center. Our Chapter and the Lindheimer Chapter (New Braunfels) are invited. The</p>	<p>November Program Our November program topic will be Biology and Testing of the Soil Foodweb, presented by Melinda Kneese. She will describe the differences between a standard soil test and a complete soil foodweb test, and the relationship between soil fertility and soil biology.</p> <p>Events 2005 Holiday Party Our chapter's final event of the year is our fourth annual Holiday Party, coming up on Saturday, December 3, from 1-3 pm. The ladies of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Comfort are cooking up a mouth-watering lunch for us. Here's the menu: a gourmet version of turkey tetrazzini (with veggies, too!)</p>	<p>2006 Board Elections The chapter's nominating committee is very pleased to present the following slate for the four elected board officers to serve in 2006:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President – Jim Stanley • Vice-President – Bob Richie • Secretary – Kathryn Harrison • Treasurer – Marilyn Murrman <p>The election will take place at our final 2005 chapter meeting on November 28. At that time, nominations will also be taken from the floor for any of these positions. In accordance with the chapter by-laws, all other positions on</p>

<p>Alamo Area Chapter will provide the entree, plates, etc., drinks (BYOB if you want an “adult beverage”), and we are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. The social hour begins at 6:00pm with dinner starting at 7:00. The Land Management Assistance Program took third place among all of the projects presented at the TMN State Meeting at the MO Ranch. The \$100 prize is being put toward our Chapter Holiday party. Thanks to everyone who made this project possible.</p>	<p>a green salad with "everything in it but the kitchen sink!" home-made dinner rolls and desserts (several choices) coffee and tea The church's price is \$8.50 per person; however, your board has voted to pay \$1 of that cost as a thank-you for all your volunteer services this year, so all tickets will be only \$7.50 for this outstanding meal!</p> <p>2005 State Meeting At this year's TMN State Meeting at Mo Ranch, Michelle Haggerty showed off the beautiful Take Pride in America award from the US Department of the Interior, which was presented at a ceremony in Washington, DC in late September. The Texas Master Naturalist program received this award in the category of state programs. The Take Pride in America initiative was created by the US Department of the Interior as a partnership between federal, state and local governments and various groups "dedicated to instilling a sense of volunteerism and good stewardship in all public land users," according to the program's web site. At the TMN State Meeting, Michelle invited representatives of all chapters present to come up and have their photo taken with the award. Ron Hood, Sandy Peña, and Angelo Falzarano represented our chapter. Congratulations to all our members!</p> <p>For the first time, this year's TMN State Meeting included an “Exemplary Project Fair” to showcase outstanding projects from chapters across the state. There were a number of criteria such as: useful and practical for all chapters need-driven (addressing a pressing natural resource need) well-planned and executed collaborative of many chapter members' skills, interests, and expertise. Our chapter entered our new Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP), which was created by our President, Jim Stanley. Ginny deWolf did an excellent job of putting the display together to highlight this program's accomplishments in its first nine months of operation. You can see the display and the award at our November meeting. There were some twenty chapters that brought project displays, ranging from interpretative trails to creation of an herbarium. At the awards ceremony on Sunday morning, Michelle made a surprise announcement: Exxon-Mobil donated funds to give out prizes for the top three projects. Our chapter's LMAP project took third place and received a \$100 prize!</p>	<p>the board are appointed by the incoming president. The past president is automatically a member of the board.</p> <p>Events This year's Winter Prairie Bird Survey will take place at Cibolo Nature Center on December 11, January 15 and February 12, from 10:00am to about 12:30pm.</p> <p>Milestones Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Wanda Mattarocci from the Class of 2004 has certified (receiving her Dragonfly pin) and recertified (receiving her pin of the year, a Blue Kingfisher in 2005). Nancy Vaughan reached her 250-hour milestones – 250 cumulative volunteer hours since becoming a Master Naturalist. Her Bronze Dragonfly pin will be awarded at the Holiday Party in December. Congratulations to Wanda and Nancy for their achievements!</p>
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	<p>Congratulations to everyone who participates in the LMAP project—we are proud of you, and so is the TMN program!</p> 	
<p>A Newsletter was not published in December 2005</p>		
<p>2006</p>		
<p>President's Message</p>	<p>Activities</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p><u>January 2006</u></p>		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley Happy New Year, y'all! 2005 was a year of accomplishments for our chapter: We started the year with about 70 members and ended with about 100, after training our largest class ever! In fall of 2004, we completed training for our Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP), and the LMAP program started off in March 2005. By year's end we had visited 54 properties covering a total of 4,150</p>	<p>January Program Our January program will be a presentation on Texas water issues – Managing Land for Healthy Watersheds and Clean Rivers – by David K. Langford. Langford will discuss the connection between good water and proper land stewardship.</p> <p>Articles Article: Paper or Plastic. An article about Recycling</p>	<p>2006 Board Elected At the chapter's November meeting, board members for the new year were elected. Officers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President – Jim Stanley • Vice-President – Bob Richie • Secretary – Kathryn Harrison • Treasurer – Marilyn Murrmann <p>Additional board members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Advanced Training – Jane Crone

<p>acres. These visits also generated over 400 volunteer hours and over 100 advanced training (AT) hours for our members. For additional information on LMAP, see the section on Advanced Training opportunities below. For the first time in our chapter history, we held our own AT sessions – as opposed to attending events held by other organizations – with an average of 30 people attending each of the wildflower, tree and grass ID classes held last fall. The board also began a program of reviewing the presentations made at our monthly meetings for AT qualification, and two of the four presentations held thereafter were given AT status. In 2005, ten new volunteer projects were approved, so that even with some consolidation of related projects, we now have 38 approved volunteer projects. All of the numbers aren't in yet, but we expect that in addition to LMAP the other big volunteer projects will be Riverside, Cibolo, and the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area. 2005 may be a hard act to follow, but we are going to try. We already have plans for more AT events and for expanding our corps of LMAP trainees. As always, we want to hear any ideas you have to make our chapter even better.</p>	<p>Training and Volunteer Opportunities LMAP Training for 2006 The Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP) is a project begun last year by our chapter where trained volunteers visit a homeowner's property to help them identify plants and discuss various land management issues, all with the goal of making the owners better land stewards</p> <p>The Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Class Training – Betty Gardner • Director, Volunteer Projects – Ron Hood • 2005 Class Representative – Susan Longacre <p>Director, Communications – Phyllis Muska</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past President – Sandy Peña • Director, Membership – Priscilla Stanley. <p>Thanks to outgoing board members Sharon Corley, Wanda Mattarocci, Betty Thomas and Nancy Vaughan for their dedication and service over the last year!</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos In December, Kip Kiphart attended a Monarch Butterfly Symposium at Cal Poly State in San Luis, California, along with other Texas citizen scientists. Kip, director of the Cibolo Nature Center's monarch larva monitoring project, was recognized as leader of the longest-running and most consistent monarch larva monitoring team in the United States. He and his team have monitored the perennial milkweed patch at the Cibolo Nature Center for four years. From March through October, they check the plants weekly for monarch eggs and larvae. John Rogers was recognized in the Kerrville Daily Times for his efforts in the Medina Community Library garden.</p> <p>Fourteen members of the Class of 2004 certified as Master Naturalists during the past year. And 23 members from earlier classes recertified in 2005. Thirteen members qualified for the special first-year recertification, new in 2005. Our chapter also had a number of members recognized for various milestones last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourteen reached the 250-hour mark and received bronze dragonflies. • Four reached the 500-hour milestone and were rewarded with silver dragonflies. • Three of our members – Angelo Falzarano, Jim Stanley, and Priscilla Stanley – reached the lofty
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		1000-hour mark and received gold dragonflies for their dedication! Good work!
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
February 2006		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley Well, the calendar says February, the temperature says April, the landscape says drought, and I see a dragonfly and a butterfly outside my window right now. There is always something interesting going on in the Hill Country, which gives me a chance to remind you of some things.</p> <p>Master Naturalist is an organization designed for people not just to belong to, but to participate in and to be active in. So I want to encourage everyone to participate by attending our monthly meetings as well as those of kindred organizations such as the Native</p>	<p>February Program Our February program will be a presentation on Geological Complexity and Plant Diversity by Bill Lindemann. He will focus on the area west of the Pecos River and describe how the area's geological complexity enhances plant diversity.</p> <p>Articles Article: Cowbird Trapping</p> <p>Article: A Page from the Herbarium: Puccoon This month's plant: Puccoon (Fringed Puccoon, Narrowleaf Gromwell, Golden Puccoon) Lithospermum incisum Lehmann by Susan Longacre</p> <p>Training and Volunteer Opportunities Texas Master Naturalist Retreat The annual retreat for Central Region chapters of Texas Master Naturalist will be held February 25, hosted by the Heart of Texas Chapter at the Lake Waco Wetlands and open to all chapter members.</p>	<p>Kerrville-Schreiner Park Cibolo Nature Center Texas Master Naturalist List-serve</p> <p>Texas Tech Tech Lifelong Learning Community. This program included sessions entitled "Life Under the Microscope" and "Meet the Birds of the Hill Country: An Introduction to Birds and Birding" by Bill Lindemann</p> <p>Article: Women Learning About the Land</p>
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
March 2006		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley After having been out of town for ten days, we were anxious to see the changes that were occurring in the flora around the house, now that spring is almost upon us. We were interested in the number of woody species already beginning to turn green, and recorded the following list: Spanish oak, blackjack oak, rough-leaf dogwood, hop tree, cedar elm, possumhaw, Texas persimmon, gum bumelia, fragrant sumac, Eve's necklace, false indigo, spicebush, Mexican plum, creek plum, Mexican buckeye, red buckeye, anacacho orchid, elbowbush, and the volunteer peach tree coming up in the compost pile. Even the mesquite is beginning to show a little green, and the Monterrey oak is</p>	<p>March Program Our March program will be a presentation on the Geologic Setting of the Canyon Lake Gorge by Dr. Bill Ward. Dr. Ward will discuss the Cretaceous paleogeography in the Texas Hill Country, the accumulation sequence of Cretaceous rocks, where the Glen Rose formation fits into the picture, and why so much of the Glen Rose is limestone.</p> <p>Articles: Article: A Page from the Herbarium: Texas Betony This month's plant: Texas Betony (Stachys coccinea) by Sandra Magee</p> <p>Reporting Your Hours</p>	<p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Gene Smith of the Class of 2003 has completed requirements for his first certification and will receive his dragonfly pin this month. Ron Hood reached his 1000-hour milestone – 1000 cumulative volunteer hours since becoming a Master Naturalist – qualifying him for his gold dragonfly pin. And both Ron and Jane Crone have recertified for 2006, since they have already completed forty volunteer hours and eight hours of advanced training this year. Ron and Jane will each receive the Master Naturalist pin of the year, a handsome Prickly Pear.</p>

<p>beginning its leaf exchange. In addition, the Mexican redbud was in bloom, as were the agarita, coral honeysuckle, and fragrant sumac. We should soon be at the time when the light green of the Spanish oaks brings life to the surrounding hills in contrast to the darker green of the live oaks and cedar. We are also entering the time for the live oaks to begin leaf exchange, where last year's leaves fall off and the new ones emerge. This is the time when many folks worry that their trees have oak wilt. While dropping leaves can be a symptom of oak wilt, if it occurs in live oaks between now and the first half of May, it is almost certainly leaf exchange, and it is almost impossible to diagnose oak wilt during this time. So don't worry, unless the new leaves start falling. One of the best ways to learn what time of the year this or that change takes place is to keep records, and I strongly encourage all MNs to keep a notebook. Record any and all observations you make about anything in the natural world around you, and you will be glad you did. After a lifetime of scientific research, I can assure you that failure to record information frequently leads to disappointment or worse, but no one ever regrets having written something down.</p>	<p>Our chapter data manager, Nyta Hensley, sent our members an e-mail on March 1 with some requests for how to report our hours.</p> <p>Plant Coaches: Partnership with Habitat for Humanity Last year, our chapter began working with Habitat for Humanity to help new Habitat homeowners plan the landscapes around their homes. Riverside Nature Center (RNC) supervises the improvements in the landscaping and driveway, funded by a grant from the Cailloux Foundation.</p>	<p>Priscilla Stanley was named Volunteer of the Month at Riverside Nature Center and was the subject of a very complimentary write-up in the February Riverside Nature Notes newsletter. The same issue had a very comprehensive article on Texas Master Naturalists and our chapter's mission and partnership with Riverside Nature Center.</p> <p>Master Naturalist volunteers at Old Tunnel WMA recently attended water quality monitoring training conducted by Texas Watch. Receiving partial and full certification were Ron Hood, Myrna Langford, Wanda Mattarocci, Diane McMahon, and Bob Richie. Assisting in the training was Nyta Hensley. Water quality monitoring will begin at Old Tunnel this spring. The training was arranged by Amy Sugeno, Texas Parks & Wildlife Manager of Old Tunnel WMA.</p> <p>Congratulations to all our achievers!</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>April 2006</p>		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley The Board has approved Bill Lindemann's presentation at our February meeting as advanced training (AT), so if you attended that presentation, you can count that hour as AT. The Board wishes to reiterate the policy for new volunteer projects. If any MN wishes to do a project that does not appear to be on the volunteer project list, first check with Ron Hood to verify that the activity is not already covered by an existing project. If it is not, then the MN can follow our procedure by filling out our form (on our website) and submitting it to Ron Hood for his and/or Board approval. The freeze some of us had on March 24 really set back a lot of our deciduous woody plants. At least around Tierra Linda, almost everything that had only begun to green up and therefore had small</p>	<p>April Program Our April program will be a presentation by Dr. Kim Lohmeyer, a researcher at the USDA insect lab in Kerrville. Dr. Lohmeyer does research on livestock entomology and will speak on how insects impact livestock and humans.</p> <p>Earth Day Native Plant Sale & Nature Fair On Saturday, April 22 from 8:00am to 3:00pm, our TMN partner, Riverside Nature Center, along with the Kerrville</p> <p>Article: A Page from the Herbarium: Swanflower This month's plant: Swanflower (one of several Dutchman's Pipes) Aristolochia erecta Linneaus by Susan Longacre</p>	<p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos The first member of our Class of 2005 to become a certified Texas Master Naturalist is Lars Nielsen. Lars has completed all thirteen training sessions and three field trips, as well as forty hours of volunteer service and eight hours of advanced training. Lars will be awarded his TMN Certificate and his green and white Dragonfly pin at our April 24 meeting. Six TMNs have re-certified for 2006 and will receive their certificates and Prickly Pear pins: Cynthia Johnson, Sandra Magee, Phyllis Muska, Sandy Peña, Jim Stanley and Priscilla Stanley. Jane Crone and Phyllis Muska have earned their bronze milestone awards for 250 cumulative volunteer hours in</p>

<p>tender new leaves had the leaves killed by the freeze. Most of the trees and shrubs that were still in the bud stage are OK. Of course, all trees and shrubs native to this area have evolved to withstand late freezes – and March 24 is not really late – so they should all survive. By the time you read this, many of the damaged trees should be showing new life, or will be soon. While the ultimate survival of native trees is not threatened, there is no doubt that, coupled with the drought in recent months, this puts a lot of plants in stress. So especially if you have newly planted (within the last two years) trees or shrubs, a little extra water might be very helpful. Oh, by the way, in case you have forgotten, the chiggers will be out soon.</p>	<p>Volunteer and Training Opportunities The Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center are looking for help on Thursday, May 11, when they host 184 third graders at the Nature Trails for a day of "Wings Over The Hills". Volunteers will work with a co-volunteer to staff a stop along the trail. All information will be provided – as well as lunch! During the afternoon we will have the opportunity to view a special program on raptors. For more information please contact Jane Crone 830 669 2639.</p> <p>From the TMN Digest In case you missed it, the Texas Master Naturalist Digest reported the 2005 dollar value of volunteer service per hour: The Independent Sector has posted its calculation of the per hour value of volunteers for 2005 at \$18.04.</p>	<p>service to their communities promoting the beneficial use of natural resources. They will each receive a bronze Dragonfly to celebrate this achievement. Diane McMahon and Nina Wagner are recent graduates of the Hill Country Master Gardener program. Congratulations to all our achievers!</p> <p>Sadly for us, Amy Sugeno has announced her departure from Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area, our Chapter, and the Hill Country as her husband Dave is graduating from seminary and being assigned to Conroe. Many of us know Amy in her capacity as volunteer coordinator at Old Tunnel and advisor to our Chapter. We'll miss Amy but wish her well and hope she keeps in touch from her new home.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>May 2006</p>		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley The Board voted to give anyone who attended Bill Ward's talk at our March meeting 0.5 hours of Advanced Training (AT). Those who also attended the field trip to Canyon Lake can count another 3 hours of AT for that. Please note that advanced training and volunteer hours should only be reported to the nearest half hour, not smaller fractions of an hour. Applications are now being accepted for our next class which will start in late August. If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a Master Naturalist, please have them e-mail Priscilla Stanley at jpbstan@kctc.com with their name and mailing address so they can be sent an application packet.</p> <p>We are looking for help in distributing flyers about our Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP), particularly in Bandera, Gillespie and Kendall counties. If you know of a good place where these notices are likely to be seen by small landowners (and where they won't contribute to the litter problem), and if you are willing to</p>	<p>May Program Our May program will be on Roles and Responsibilities of Texas Cooperative Extension Agents by Roy Walston. Mr. Walston will discuss the organizational structure and roles volunteers play in identifying issues, planning, and conducting educational programs in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H and youth development in Kerr County.</p> <p>We are pleased to announce that we have a new member, Thomas Collins, who transferred to our Chapter from the Cradle of Texas Chapter. Tom is a seventh generation Texan, born in San Antonio. He and his wife, Sherry, are avid birders, and volunteered extensively at the Sea Center Texas, an inland Parks and Wildlife salt water hatchery near Lake Jackson. Tom is also a Master Gardener. He serves with Sandy Peña on the TMN State Advisory Committee. The Collinses live on 57 acres in Center Point which they manage for Ag Wildlife Valuation. Be sure to welcome Tom when you see him at our meetings.</p> <p>Article: about Texas Hill Country Bats</p>	<p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Guy Harrison, a member of our Class of 2005, has certified this month as a Texas Master Naturalist. He completed the three requirements for certification: all of the training sessions and field trips, forty hours of volunteer service (much of it in teaching nature classes for children at HEB Camp, schools and Riverside Nature Center), and eight hours of advanced training. Guy will receive his dragonfly pin and certificate at our May meeting. This month we have a "first" for 2006. Lars Nielsen, Class of 2005, has completed a special first year recertification which recognizes outstanding achievements. Lars completed the requirements for certification described above, and then he contributed an additional forty hours of volunteer service and attended another eight hours of advanced training. Lars will receive the recertification pin of the year, the lovely Texas Prickly Pear pin. Lars volunteers extensively at Cibolo Nature Center, and built</p>

<p>distribute them for us, please see me at our May Meeting, or e-mail me at jstmn@ktc.com.</p>	<p>Now Accepting Applications for the 2006 Class! The Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program has just begun its 2006 membership application period, which will run through July 10. The classes will be held from August 28 through November 15, with thirteen classes scheduled primarily on Wednesday from 9am to 1pm, plus three Saturday field trips. The fee will be \$150, which covers all class materials, including two reference notebooks, and includes a \$50 deposit that will be returned to trainees who achieve certification by December 2007</p> <p>Article: A Page from the Herbarium: Dutchman's Breeches This month's plant: Dutchman's Breeches</p>	<p>the bluebird boxes for a bluebird trail. Phyllis Muska of the Class of 2004 and Bob Richie of the Class of 2003 also recertified and will receive their Texas Prickly Pear pins. Phyllis edits our monthly electronic newsletter, traps cowbirds, and participates in the Colorado River Watch project. Bob is a long-time volunteer at the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area (the "Bat Tunnel") in Comfort where he explains the many virtues of bats to the visiting public. Bob is responsible for our excellent monthly programs. Both Phyllis and Bob volunteer in our chapter's Land Management Assistance Program.</p> <p>Alice Bulechek of the Class of 2002 recertified as well. She is a long-time volunteer in caring for the Riverside Nature Center native plant display gardens. Congratulations to all our achievers!</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>June 2006</p>		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley I would just like to remind everyone of some upcoming summer events: On June 26 in lieu of a monthly meeting we will be having a pot luck supper for all MNs and their spouses. On July 7 we will have the second grass ID class. Rufus Stevens will be leading a prairie management workshop at Cibolo on July 15. On July 24 our monthly meeting will be about weather.</p> <p>On August 28 we will have the first gathering of the new class and the opportunity for all of the rest of us to meet them. Details on these events will be elsewhere in this newsletter or in subsequent e-mails, but you can mark your calendars now. Now that the days are longer, traveling to and from these meetings is in the daylight so I hope to see everyone. We are also considering a field trip to a member's property near Utopia. It is about an hour and a half drive from Kerrville, and will give folks a chance to see a little different part of the country. This field trip will also be a Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP) training session, but will be open to all</p>	<p>June Program Our June meeting will be a pot luck picnic dinner at Riverside Nature Center for members and their spouses. This annual get-together gives us an opportunity to visit and get to know each other on a casual basis. Bring a dish to share. The chapter will provide non-alcoholic cold drinks, plates, napkins, plastic flatware, plastic cups, and ice.</p> <p>Call for Photos By Susan Longacre, Chapter Archivist Since I don't believe that 2005 could have passed without any of us taking pictures at chapter events, I can only think that we all have images stored away in computers or albums and we simply haven't added them to the archives. Well, the time has come for all good photographers to come to the aid of your archivist!</p> <p>Article: A Page from the Herbarium: Agarita This month's plant: Agarita –</p> <p>Prairie Management Seminar Offered at Cibolo Rufus Stevens, Biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, is hosting a morning workshop on grasslands management at Cibolo Nature Center on Saturday, July 15.</p>	<p>Articles: On the Lookout for Invaders Application Deadline for Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter Newsletter - June 2006 2006 Master Naturalist Class Is July 10 By Priscilla Stanley, Membership Chair</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Three more members of our Class of 2005 have achieved certification as Texas Master Naturalists by completing all the training sessions, forty hours of volunteer service and eight hours of advanced training. Cathy Downs, Diane McMahon and Rebecca Shupp will receive their TMN certificates and dragonfly pins. Seven more members of our earlier classes have achieved re-certification for 2006 by completing forty hours of volunteer service and eight hours of advanced training since January 1, 2006. Ginny de Wolf, Angelo Falzarano, Betty Gardner, Kip Kiphart, Myrna Langford, Scott Magee and Maggie Tatum will receive the 2006 TMN pin of the year, the</p>

<p>MNs, not just LMAP people. I would like to know how many people would be interested in making such a trip before we finalize any plans, so if you are interested, please e-mail me at jstmn@ktc.com.</p>	<p>We now have 25% of our 92 members certified or re-certified for 2006. Overall our Chapter members have provided 2,984 hours of volunteer service in our four-county area since January 1, and attended 530 hours of advanced training. Using the federal volunteer rate of \$18.04/hour, our volunteer service represents a value of \$53,831 to our communities in Bandera, Gillespie, Kendall and Kerr counties! The Master Naturalist program also has awards for cumulative volunteer hours throughout a person's membership.</p>	<p>Texas Prickly Pear, representing the West Texas desert ecosystem.</p> <p>Julia Campbell and Myrna Langford have earned Silver Milestone awards representing 500 hours of volunteer service, and will receive their silver dragonflies. Betty Gardner and Ginny de Wolf have earned Bronze Milestone awards for 250 hours of volunteer service, and will receive bronze dragonflies.</p> <p>Congratulations to all our chapter's achievers this month!</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p><u>July 2006</u> President's Message by Jim Stanley If you missed the pot luck dinner last month you missed a lot of good food and conversation with many nice folks. Last week we had about thirty people at the grass ID class, including three members of the Western Edwards Plateau Chapter and three high school FFA range plant team members from San Saba. There will be repeat forb, tree and grass ID classes this October and November for any TMN interested. If you are looking for something to do this summer, why not reread all of the e-mail notices you have received lately about volunteer projects. Or better yet, go to our chapter web site and check out the list of about forty approved projects to find one that interests you. If anyone is interested in mentoring one of our new class members, please email Priscilla at jpbstan@ktc.com. Also, for anyone who missed one of the training sessions last year, contact Cathy Downs at mzdowns@omniglobal.net for a copy of this year's training schedule so you can see when you can make up the missed class.</p>	<p>July Program The program for our July meeting will be Reading a Radar – South Central Texas Storms by Larry Eblen, a forecaster with the National Weather Service (NWS).</p> <p>Kerrville Butterfly Count By Tom Collins</p> <p>Article: A Page from the Herbarium: Texas Frog Fruit This month's plant: Texas Frog-Fruit Phyla incisa Small or Phyla nodiflora var. incisa By Susan Longacre</p> <p>Since January 1, 2006, our members have contributed 3,468 volunteer hours to their communities. These volunteer hours have a value of \$62,563, based on the 2006 value of \$18.04/hour for volunteer work. What is more remarkable is that only half of our members have reported their hours so far this year. Just think of the hours we could report to the State TMN program for their matching grants if all our members reported their good deeds!</p> <p>Our members have also attended 552 hours of Advanced Training so far in 2006. That is a whole lot of nature learning!</p>	<p>Article: On the Lookout for Invaders Part II: What we can do Do you want to help slow down the spread of harmful invasive species and reduce their ecological and economic damage? The first step is to locate where invaders have arrived and get that information to those who can do something about it.</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Cathy Downs of our Class of 2005 has just earned the special recertification award available only to first year members. Cathy has completed over eighty hours of volunteer work and sixteen hours of advanced training to certify a second time within a 15-month period. She will receive her 2006 Texas Prickly Pear pin. Cathy chairs our Curriculum Committee which plans and runs the training for our Class of 2007.</p> <p>Barbara Lowenthal of our Class of 2002 has recertified for 2006 and will receive her Texas Prickly Pear pin. Barbara is the project coordinator for maintaining the butterfly garden at Kerrville-Schreiner Park in Kerrville and for the virtual herbarium project, which will permit on-line identification of Hill Country native plants. Bob Richie of our Class of 2003 has earned his Silver Dragonfly for 500 hours of cumulative volunteer service.</p>

		<p>Bob serves as our Vice President for Programs this year and is a frequent volunteer at the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area (also known as the Bat Tunnel) near Comfort. Recently Bob volunteered at the children's summer camp on photography at Riverside Nature Center. Congratulations to all our chapter's achievers this month! Sandy and Raul Peña and their rainwater harvesting system were featured in the June 17 San Antonio Express-News. The article describes their 12000-gallon system and gives a number of resources for rainwater catchment. Barbara Lowenthal, coordinator of the butterfly habitat project at Kerrville-Schreiner Park, was interviewed by the Kerrville Daily Times for an in-depth article covering the Butterfly Theater and the NABA butterfly count. The article, which appeared in the July 8-9 weekend edition, included gorgeous color photographs as well as a number of tips and resources for creating a butterfly garden.</p>
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	PROJECTS AND EVENTS	CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES
August 2006		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley Our new Class of 2006 is now full and everyone is eager to begin classes, with the first meeting on the evening of August 28. The new class Curriculum Committee has done a great job of organizing everything and getting excellent speakers. For anyone who is still missing a class from their original training, check the class schedule on our chapter web site, www.hillcountrymasternaturalist.org, or contact Cathy Downs to find out when you can make up your missed class.</p> <p>Save the date of October 14, when our chapter will again partner with Riverside Nature Center to hold a native plant sale. Not only will this be a great opportunity to obtain some native trees, shrubs and perennials, but we will be needing lots of volunteer help on that day and the days just before the sale. This will also give new class members one of their first opportunities to earn volunteer hours. More info later. Although it is just August, the process of finding volunteers to serve on the</p>	<p>August Program Our August meeting will give us a chance to meet the incoming class of 2006. The meeting will serve as an orientation for new class members, who will be introduced to the group by their mentors.</p> <p>Article: A Page from the Herbarium: Black Dalea This month's plant: Black Dalea Scientific Name – Dalea frutescens Family – Fabaceae (Legume Family) By Julia Campbell</p> <p>Images for Conservation Nature Photography Results Myrna and David Langford's Block Creek Natural Area participated in the Images for Conservation Fund's Pro-Tour of nature photography in April. T</p> <p>Since January 1, 2006, our members have contributed 4,490 volunteer hours to their communities. These volunteer hours have a value of \$81,000, based on the 2006 value of \$18.04/hour for volunteer work. These activities are as diverse as our membership, ranging from teaching</p>	<p>Let's Welcome our Class of 2006! by Priscilla Stanley, Membership director We are pleased to have an exceptional class of 30 people with an interesting variety of life experiences. What they share are strong interests and experiences with nature in its many forms, and an impressive history of volunteering. This year, the first training session will be held as our chapter meeting on Monday, August 28. We encourage all of our members to attend to meet our new trainees at a reception beginning at 6:30pm. Mentors will introduce each trainee to the class and our chapter members.</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Nyta Hensley has been named by Texas Parks & Wildlife as manager of Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area. With Nyta's dedication and extensive experience at the bat tunnel, we look forward to a smooth transition. Stephen Dodge and Nina Wagner of our Class of 2005 have achieved certification as Texas Master Naturalists by completing forty hours of volunteer service and eight hours</p>

<p>Chapter Board of Directors will begin soon. As Past President, Sandy Peña will chair the Nominating Committee. Anyone who would like to serve on the next Board, or has suggestions for new Board members, or who would like to serve on the Nominating Committee, please contact Sandy at 634 2545 or sandy@penasco.net. Thought for the day: We are one day closer to the next big rain and to cooler weather than we were yesterday.</p>	<p>children about nature, to tending native plant demonstration or butterfly gardens, or Citizen Science projects such as keeping a census of hummingbirds for Texas Parks and Wildlife. Our members have also attended 677 hours of advanced training in 2006. Popular classes this month were on learning</p>	<p>of advanced training within a 15-month period. They will receive their certificates and their dragonfly pins at our meeting. The dragonfly is the logo of the Texas Master Naturalist program. Adele Junkin of our Class of 2004 has earned her bronze dragonfly for 250 hours of cumulative volunteer service. to identify and survey invasive plants, and prairie restoration</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>September 2006</p>		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley We finally got some rain, the weather is cooler, and we just saw our first Monarch of the season this afternoon (September 8) – what's not to like about this time of year? One rainfall event, even if it is a few inches, is not enough to “break the drought”, but there is hope that more rain will be coming. September is one of our wettest months, after May. The Plant ID classes will be offered again this fall: October 11 for forbs with the Magees, October 25 for Trees and November 1 for Grasses, the latter two with me. All three classes will be held at the Lions Camp beginning about 1:00pm (or slightly later if the new class runs late) and will last 2 to 3 hours. Even if you have attended one of these classes before, you can still get AT credit if you believe repeating the class was worthwhile. Be sure to read the information about the upcoming Plant Sale on October 14. It's our only fundraiser for the year, a good volunteer opportunity (contact Priscilla at 830 257 2094), and your best chance to find the native plants you want. The State Master Naturalist meeting is being held again at Mo Ranch, this year on October 20–22. This is a good opportunity to attend a State meeting while it is in our back yard – it may not be in future years. There are lots of Advanced Training sessions and volunteer opportunities to choose from, and the web site has details. The State TMN office has awarded each chapter a \$75 “scholarship” to aid any member who is in need of financial assistance in order to attend the State meeting.</p>	<p>September Program Our September program will be the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Project by Dr. Gary P. Garrett</p> <p>Article: A Page from the Herbarium: Cusp gayfeather By Betty K. Gardner This month's plant: Scientific Name – <i>Liatis mucronata</i> Common Names: Cusp gayfeather, gay-feather; Blazing star, Narrow-leaf gayfeather</p> <p>Tour of Native-scaped Yards in Boerne Inspiration for your yard and garden will be in full bloom during the Third Annual Tour of Yards on Saturday, September 30, from 9am–1pm. Sponsored by the Cibolo Nature Center (CNC) and Native Plant Society of Texas–Boerne Chapter, On-line Bird Identification Course Offered Beginning in November, the Galveston Ornithological Society (GOS) will offer an online bird identification course to anyone interested. Created by GOS Executive Director Jim Stevenson,</p>	<p>Down by the Riverside Nature Festival, plus Huge Native Tree & Plant Sale This annual event, jointly sponsored by our Texas Master Naturalist Chapter and Riverside Nature Center, will be held on Saturday, October 14 from 8:00am to 3:00pm at Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville.</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Barbara Noblin of our Class of 2005 has achieved Certification as a Texas Master Naturalist by completing 40 hours of volunteer service and eight hours of advanced training within a 15-month period. She will receive her certificate and her dragonfly pin at our September meeting. Barbara has worked on several projects including the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area (popularly known as the Bat Tunnel). Cathy Downs of our Class of 2005 will receive her Bronze Milestone award recognizing 250 cumulative hours of volunteer service since she became a TMN last year. Cathy chairs our Curriculum Committee and our Class of 2006 members all know her as the manager of their training.</p> <p>Our yearly re-certification requirements are based on a calendar year (after the 15 months allowed to members of the new class for their initial certification) Milestone awards are based on the service a volunteer has contributed over their Master Naturalist career. Based on these data,</p>

<p>If you need such assistance, please call me at 830 257 2094 or e-mail me at jstmn@kctc.com by September 19.</p>		<p>our Hill Country Chapter members have contributed 19,305 hours to their communities since October 2002. Using the standard value of a volunteer hour of \$18.04, our members have provided \$348,256 worth of service to their communities. That is a whole lot of teaching about nature and the environment with both children and adults, supporting nature centers and native plant display areas, monitoring water quality and interpreting bats to the public that might not have been done without our Chapter members' contributions. Congratulations to all our 121 Hill Country Chapter members for so many jobs well done!</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>October 2006</p>		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley Reflections on 4 years as Master Naturalist: Part I Throughout most of my adult life I have contributed to and paid dues to numerous conservation/environmental/wildlife organizations, but that was essentially the extent of any active involvement on my part. Indeed, most of these organizations are national or international in scope and rely primarily on money raised from members and foundations to pay professionals who do most of their work, so that volunteers tend to be a minor part of their efforts. What sets Master Naturalists apart is the total reliance on volunteers and the emphasis on local projects and local issues, so that individuals can see the effects of their efforts in a real way. I have been involved in several categories of volunteer efforts, all enjoyable, useful, and for the most part, effective. There are the garden construction/maintenance and nature trail activities which we all hope serve as examples and educational resources for those who view the results of our work. And, I have certainly done, and continue to do, my share of that kind of work. Then there are the projects that involve data collection, whether counting birds or butterflies, collecting water samples, identifying locations for exotic species or surveying the flora and fauna of a given area. Having spent my working life as a research scientist, I have a certain fondness for this kind</p>	<p>October Program Our October program will be on Texas Water Issues and an Overview of Hill Country Water Resources by Michael Mecke</p> <p>Article: A Page from the Herbarium: Cowpen Daisy This month's plant: Cowpen Daisy Scientific Name – <i>Verbesina encelioides</i> Family – Asteraceae (Aster Family) By Sandra Magee</p> <p>Article : Land and Water Conference The Future of Texas Land and Water is in your Hands On November 18, come to the Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne to learn how you can conserve land and water. The conference will feature numerous presentations focusing on water conservation, deer management and native plants.</p>	<p>Article Down By the Riverside Thank You's Our Down By the Riverside Nature Festival & Native Tree and Plant Sale, co-sponsored with our partner, Riverside Nature Center, on Friday and Saturday, October 13 -14, was a huge success. We met all of our goals, thanks to the terrific support of our members.</p> <p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos Seven of our chapter members have earned awards that will be presented at our October 23 meeting. Bill Frodyma, Don Robinson, Donna Robinson and Bob Tanner of our Class of 2005 have achieved certification as Texas Master Naturalists. They will receive their certificates and their dragonfly pins. They are involved in several volunteer projects including the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area (the Bat Tunnel), Monarch larval monitoring, the annual Butterfly Count and the Butterfly Garden in Kerrville-Schreiner Park. Diane McMahon of our Class of 2005 has earned her special first year recertification by completing over 80 hours of volunteer service and 16 hours of advanced training. She will receive the 2006 TMN pin, the Texas Prickly Pear. Diane volunteers at the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area and at the Butterfly Garden in Kerrville-Schreiner Park. Nancy Vaughan of the Class of 2003 achieved her 2006 re-certification as a TMN and will</p>

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<p>of project. And, then there are the projects that involve committee or board work to keep the Chapter going – essential work but hopefully not too much of the total effort, either individually or collectively. But by far the work that has given me the greatest satisfaction and sense of accomplishment, and which I believe best exemplifies the goals of the Texas Master Naturalists, has to do with sharing what I have learned with others. Specifically, teaching classes for Chapter members, making presentations and writing articles and papers, and making Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP) visits to landowners' properties have been by far the most rewarding activities I have ever been engaged in. Of course, before you can share knowledge, you have to learn the subject well.</p> <p>I have discovered that the learning is so much more fun now than it was back in college, and indeed it is never-ending. The reason for this discussion is to try to inspire others to find something within themselves and the natural world that they are passionate about, to become knowledgeable about, and to share that knowledge and passion with others. Next month I will elaborate a bit on some of these ideas. In the meantime, remember: "in the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught."</p>		<p>receive her Texas Prickly Pear pin. Nancy leads land management projects at Los Rincones, a land trust property in Kerrville managed by the Natural Areas Preservation Association. Scott Magee of our Class of 2004 will receive his Bronze Milestone award recognizing 250 cumulative hours of volunteer service since he became a TMN. Scott is active in our Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP), visiting landowners' properties to identify their trees, forbs and native grasses and discuss issues such as invasive plants, erosion control, and more. Scott also teaches programs on native plant identification.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</p>	<p>PROJECTS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES</p>
<p>November 2006</p>		
<p>President's Message by Jim Stanley Reflections on 4 years as a Master Naturalist: Part II Last month I discussed various types of activities I have been involved with as a Master Naturalist, and how I thought those activities that involved teaching others about the ecology of the Hill Country were the most rewarding. Now I would like to explain why. To my mind, the biggest problem with the Hill Country landscape is the loss of, and continued destruction of what, for want of a better term, I will call the "natural" habitat: that is, the habitat that was here before Europeans arrived and would be here still except for modern man's</p>	<p>November Program Our November meeting will be a presentation on Conservation Roles of the US Fish and Wildlife Service by Christina Williams.</p> <p>Monarch, Milkweed and MLMP by Kip Kiphart The Monarch, Milkweed and Monarch Larval Monitoring Project presentation on October 9 attracted ten people, including a 10-year-old home-schooled young man who said, "I've always been interested in bugs." Julia Campbell, Ginny de Wolf, Bill Frodyma, Betty Gardner, and Barbara Lowenthal from our Hill Country Master Naturalist chapter participated. They plan to start MLMP at the butterfly garden in Kerrville-</p>	<p>Class of 2006 Project and Graduation The Class of 2006 will meet to work on their class project at Kerrville-Schreiner Park on Wednesday morning, November 15.</p> <p>2006 Holiday Party Our chapter's holiday party will be held on Saturday, December 16 at First United Methodist Church (321 Thompson Drive in Kerrville) from noon to 2:00pm.</p>

<p>management practices. Modern man’s management practices are responsible for or have significantly contributed to: cedar encroachment, deer overpopulation, reduced stream flows and aquifer levels, reduced amounts of grazing and browsing forage, introduction of exotic species and oak wilt. Since 95% of all land in Texas is privately owned, the solutions to all of the above problems rest with those private landowners. And in the Hill Country, that increasingly means new, small landowners, most of whom have little experience managing land and are not looking to make a living off of the land. Educating these folks about the ecology of the Hill Country and about relevant management practices they can put in place to improve their little piece of it can go a long way toward alleviating many of the above-mentioned problems. I think that is the most important thing we can do. The good news is a lot of people that are in the above category are also eager to learn and welcome any help they can get. Many of them have asked us for Land Management Assistance Program visits, and some of these new owners have also become Master Naturalists. As we grow in numbers, the number of other residents we can reach and educate also increases, and hopefully in the future our efforts will have truly made a difference in the Hill Country. I can’t expect everyone to share the same goals and priorities, but I do hope that all MNs will think seriously about where they can make the biggest difference in an important area, to educate themselves in those areas and to then take it upon themselves to share this knowledge with others. My experience has been very rewarding and fulfilling, and I think you will find it to be so too. Never stop learning.</p>	<p>Schreiner City Park. Mary Kennedy brought live organisms for a hands-on demonstration.</p> <p>Article: A Page from the Herbarium: Wild Four-o-Clock This month’s plant: Wild Four-o-Clock Scientific Name – <i>Mirabilis nyctaginea</i> Family – nyctaginea by Julia Campbell</p> <p>Article : Snakes . . . A Slightly Different Perspective Karen Millikan In our efforts to identify and understand life forms whose virtues may have escaped us, consider our legless friend the SNAKE. Can we learn anything from snakes?</p> <p>Article: 2006 State Conference by Donna Robinson October , , , in Texas . . . a weekend at Mo Ranch – what could be better? My husband Don and I are “alumni” of the class of 2005. Last year’s annual meeting at Mo Ranch was such fun that we decided to go again –</p>	<p>Master Naturalist Milestones/Acknowledgments/Kudos These members have earned awards that will be presented at our November 27 meeting: Dorothy Akers, Jim Gardner, Susan Longacre and Lyda Slayton have completed all their training, forty hours of volunteer service in their communities and eight hours of advanced training (AT) to achieve certification as Texas Master Naturalists. They will receive their certificates and their dragonfly pins. Sharon Corley and Wanda Mattarocci have recertified for 2006 by completing forty volunteer hours and eight hours of AT this year. They will receive the TMN pin of 2006, the Texas Prickly Pear. Wanda Mattarocci has also earned her Bronze Milestone award recognizing 250 cumulative hours of Volunteer service since she became a TMN.</p>
<p>December 2006</p>	<p>A Newsletter was not published in December 2006</p>	
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