



Indian Trail Marker

Texas Master Naturalists...Serving Ellis and Navarro Counties

September/October
Volume 3, Issue 6

Meeting 4th Monday of each
month at 6 p.m., program at 7
p.m. at the Red Oak municipal
bldg <http://www.redoaktx.org/>

701 S. I-35E, Suite 3, Waxahachie, TX 75165

Office: 972-825-5175

Visit our website at <http://txmn.org/indiantrail>

From the Desk of the PRESIDENT

Eileen Berger, President ITMN

The end is in sight! No, not the end of the world, just the end of horrible hot weather. I would like to personally invite you to attend the annual State Meeting in New Braunfels, Texas on Oct. 25-27. It is a beautiful setting, and the plethora of different workshops and field trips will be great. You could be one of only a few people who are privileged to climb down into a newly formed canyon (think Grand Canyon), and believe me it is spectacular. It is not open to the public and requires a guide and good knees.

Newbies, you could get all of your AT hours in one place. Besides, it is fun to be with other members of our chapter at meals and workshops. You will also meet members of other chapters and find out what they are doing. Believe me, we have gotten great ideas at these meetings for projects and materials such as Project Wild. You could take the Saturday short course on dragonfly identification and monitoring which will be taught by John Abbott, who literally 'Wrote the Book' on dragonflies. If you don't want to spend the night you can attend one day and go home. It is an easy drive down I-35 or you can get there the 'back way' as we say in our family. Hope you can make it.

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Calendar of Events, Projects & Meetings

SEPTEMBER

- 2 **Labor Day
- 7 BRIT
- 12 Wolf Creek Workday
- 14 MNP Eagle Scout Project
- 16 MNP Workday & Wildflower/Bird Walk 9 a.m.
- 23 ITMN Meeting/Wildscapes–Derek Broman, Urban Biologist
- 28 Tour of three wildscapes for members

OCTOBER

- 2 Kachina Prairie Workday (*tentative*)
- 5 BRIT
- 7 MNP Workday & Wildflower/Bird Walk 9 a.m.
- 10 Wolf Creek Workday
- 12 International Observe the Moon Night Event & Night Hike
- 17 Bardwell Lake Workday (*tentative*)
- 19 Bardwell Lake Workday (*tentative*) & **Kerens Cotton Harvest Fest
(*possible outreach event*)
- 21 MNP Workday & Wildflower/Bird Walk 9 a.m.
- 25-27 Annual State Meeting in New Braunfels
- 28 ITMN Meeting/Creepy Crawlies, aka Spiders–Mike Merchant,
Professor & Entomologist

NOVEMBER

- 3 Bardwell Lake Workday (*tentative*)
- 9 Kachina Prairie Workday (*tentative*)
- 14 Wolf Creek Workday (*tentative*)
- 23 Wolf Creek Workday (*tentative*)
- 25 ITMN Meeting/How & Where to Report Bird Sightings—
Tania Homayoun, Senior Conservation Biologist, Audubon Texas

PROJECT NEWS

Bardwell Lake – (*Peggy Bailey*) There is no update, no news from that project.

Kachina Prairie – (*Carolyn Ross*) We are actively planning a prescribed burn for late autumn, in conjunction with the City of Ennis, the Ennis Garden Club and the Texas Land Conservancy. We are also setting work dates to prepare for the burn, likely one in early Oct. and a second one likely to be Nov. 9th. Dates will be finalized soon.

Office Manager – (*Kitty Smith*) Please remember that everyone has a “mail box” (in the form of a file folder) at the ITMN office in the AgriLife building in Waxahachie. These can be used to leave each other info, notes, etc. Also our library is housed there. The office is open M-F 8-5 but is closed for lunch from 12-1.

Editorial Board – (*Kitty Smith*) Since our last meeting ITMN submitted the following articles to the paper: “What is CoCoRaHS” by Carolyn Gritzmaker; Urban Wildlife Series – “Habitat” by TP&W & edited by Rebecca Schumacher; “The Good Snake” by Kathleen Mack; and “Black-chinned Hummingbirds” by Steve Fowler. Thanks so much to the four of you for submitting them!

All ITMN articles written since the chapter’s inception are available for viewing in the ITMN website. Twenty-two articles have been published in the Waxahachie Daily Light in 2013.

Mockingbird Park - (*Aaron Gritzmaker*) The park is relatively quiet at this time. We have had several workdays and nature walks but nothing to write home about. On September 14, 2013 we are going to clear the fence line north of the parking lot on the outside next to the road. We need all you chain saw and ATV drivers there. This is in conjunction with a BOY SCOUT PROJECT. NO WORK DAY the 2nd of September, due to the holiday.

Sara Cornett has taken responsibility for the Butterfly Garden.

Wolf Creek Park Trails – Navarro Mills Lake (*Sharon Lane*) Nothing to report this month.

Stream Team - (*Maureen Nitkowski*) Sampling continues with decreasing flow at all sites. Maureen Nitkowski is now certified in advanced monitoring, and ITMN Chapter has received the kit to do this work. Tina Hendon completed basic training and plans to be certified next month and added to the team. Eileen Berger will take the advanced training this month.

Project Wild - (*Rebecca Schumacher*) Rebecca led a training workshop combining Project Wild and Aquatic Wild, and certified 5 new facilitators for each curriculum, including 4 ITMN Chapter members and one intern from Fossil Rim Wildlife Park! Chapter members received a total of 10 AT hours for the combined training!

Training Team - (*Charlie and Paul Grindstaff*) Charlie & Paul held a meeting, at 5:30 PM on Monday, 8/26, at the Red Oak Library before the Chapter meeting, for all chapter members interested in serving on a committee to help organize next year’s – 2014 – MN Training Team and Training Classes. All Chapter Members were encouraged to attend. If you would like to help out on the Committee, please let Paul & Charlie know.

Outreach – (*Pam & Joe Mundo*) This past month, as in previous months, we have reached out to Ellis & Navarro county newspapers, magazines, radio stations, city librarians and the Dallas Morning News “Thursday Garden Calendar” as well as our 250+ “Friends of ITMN” e-mailing list, sending announcements of our upcoming events. For August, those events were our Chapter Monthly Meeting Program, organized by Chapter Program Chair - Carolyn Ross and our Mockingbird Nature Park Wildflower and Birding Walks conducted by Chapter Members - Carolyn Gritzmaker and Charlie Grindstaff.

URBAN WILDLIFE SERIES : HABITAT

By Rebecca Schumacher

Did you know that the greatest cause of species decline is loss of habitat, or living space?

Every organism needs a unique combination of food, water and living space if it is to survive and reproduce. If any one of these needed elements is lost, the organism leaves the area or dies. Since different species need different combinations of food, water and space it is a rare site that does not support some kind of organism. Those organisms that are able to use the greatest variety of food, water and types of living spaces are called generalists. They tend to be widespread and numerous. Generalists are able to handle moderate changes in their environment. Specialists are organisms that have very specific living requirements. They are often very successful at making use of something in their environment that other organisms do not or cannot use. Most specialists are found in very limited areas. Their numbers may be large where they are found but a loss of any part of their unique habitat causes a rapid decline in their population. Endangered species are usually specialists.

Where do humans come into this picture?

Needless to say, humans are generalists. They eat many different kinds of food and live in many different kinds of habitat. Humans alter their environment in ways to make life more comfortable for themselves and to supply their own needs for food, water and living space.

Prairies are cleared for farms that produce food. Forests are cut for wood products and additional living spaces. Rivers are dammed for water, flood control and the production of electricity. Wetlands are drained for farmlands and the construction of roads and homes. Mountains are mined for their minerals. Humans are able to alter their environment more than any other organism. In doing so they produce even more habitat suitable for themselves. All of these changes have impacts on the other organisms who share those spaces and get their food and water from them. Often, in the process of creating more human habitat, humans alter the environment enough to eliminate the food, water or living spaces needed by other organisms to survive. We as humans have recently discovered that, for the environment to function properly, the activities of many other organisms are needed. Habitat destruction and pollution threaten the organisms that remove carbon dioxide from the air and supply the oxygen most organisms need to live.

Fortunately, it is not too late to start repairing the damage that has been done to the environment. Knowledge is the key and each of us has our own part to play in protecting and restoring habitat to its former diversity. For more information on what you can do, you might want to think about a Wildscape certification for your yard! More information available at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/wildscape_certification.phtml

TPWD publication LF D0200-520, edited by Rebecca Schumacher



Anticipation

By Dan Rayfield

Recently my bride and I were sitting in our chain swing at the close of another hot Texas day. I had an iced beverage in my hand and an ancient cat on my lap. It was what the poets used to call the gloaming of the day. Without really knowing why, I found myself in a happy mood. Now this is in stark contrast to my more typical summer mood which tends toward the grumpy end of the emotion meter. Sweating in 100 plus degree heat just does that to me. But during the evening under discussion I found myself strangely introspective.

The moon was nearly full. As that bright orb came into view above our house roofline I couldn't help but think about the uncounted generations of humans that have stared at that same heavenly body with the same wonder and awe that I feel every time I look at it. And to make the moment even more delicious, I could do a 180 degree pivot, to see a gorgeous, multi-hued sunset reflected on scattered clouds to the west. I could not decide which way to face. Everywhere I looked I saw a free show that was better than any sporting event or movie or concert.

However, I knew it was not the sunset / moonrise moment that had put me in a happy mood. Nor was it the fact that I had enjoyed observing a young roadrunner for over thirty minutes earlier in the day. This particular roadrunner was something of a clown and completely unafraid of me. He was hunting

grasshoppers and he was enjoying it. As I closed my front gate earlier in the evening he had repeatedly climbed, hopped and scampered up a big cedar to a limb that stretched over the road. There, oblivious to my nearby presence, he would wait for his prey and when the timing was right he would swoop down and pounce. This was not the normal roadrunner hunting process that we have observed over the years. They are normally more efficient and hunt as they run. But this young bird had his process down and, if I can put it in anthropomorphic terms, he was having himself some fun. Who am I to correct him?

But I digress...

Let's circle back to my unexpectedly happy mood on that warm summer evening. As the sky darkened and the moon got higher in the sky it suddenly occurred to me why I was happy. It was simple really: anticipation.

I had survived another Texas summer and I could enjoy the sweet, delicious anticipation of the best time of the year. Autumn is almost here. I don't know about you but just the word "autumn" makes me happy. Cooler weather..., warm stews and chili..., the turning of the leaves..., trout fishing and long hikes..., and evenings with friends by a campfire. As the song says, these are a few of my favorite things. And they are all wonderful, but I find that I enjoy the anticipation of all those wonderful activities just as much as the activities themselves.

So now, while it is still hitting 100 during the days and the evenings in the swing cool down to a balmy 91, I am already in an autumn frame of mind and I'm already happy. I hope you are too.

Born on the Fourth of July

By Jim West



Raindrops in my Coffee

By Dan Rayfield

Coffee. Good, strong coffee is one of the simple pleasures in life. I don't mean the hurry-up-and-gulp-it-down-so-I-can-face-the-morning-commute kind of coffee. And I sure don't mean the tepid, weak, tasteless brown liquid that passes for coffee in most offices. And while I'm at it, I don't mean the wonderfully delicious but extremely expensive concoctions made at a coffee shop. No, I'm talking about a good cup of morning coffee made and enjoyed leisurely at home. I am a bit persnickety about that morning cup. It has to be brewed fresh and be hot and strong with just a touch of real cream or half & half to mellow it out. It is a ritual of mine to enjoy that brewed cup of nature's bounty outside while watching the day begin.

As a Master Naturalist it is one way for me to combine two things I dearly love: observing wildlife and drinking that strong cup of joe.

Now, I know we are supposed to remember the Psalm: "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us be happy and rejoice in it." And I try. I really do try to do that every day. But after a stretch of 100 plus degree days and the ongoing drought making it hard for the trees and pastures and creatures to survive, it is hard to remember to rejoice in each day. I tell myself that things will change and that this is just a typical summer in Texas. But the reality is that summer days in Texas are hard on man and beast alike and there is just no getting around it.

But there are days when change does happen. Today is one of those days. I walked out this morning to cool air and a light rain. I had heard it rain off and on all night and

there is nothing that makes a country boy sleep better than hearing it rain on a metal roof. I took my morning cup of coffee with me as I walked out to our whiz-bang, officially certified CoCoRaHS rain gauge. (For all you weather interested folks out there I urge you to look up CoCoRaHS and get involved if you are so inclined. You will find it a fun activity.)

Anyway, this super-duper rain gauge measures moisture down to the hundredths of an inch. Recently we have had nothing to report. But I knew today would be different and I enjoyed every step I took out to the gauge. Playing the mind game I always do, I asked myself about how much rain it would take to "make me happy". "If we could at least get a half inch out of this rain event, it would sure help the pastures. "That is my normal mantra. But

today was different. I wanted three quarters of an inch. As I got closer, my Master Naturalist heart began to beat a little faster. I put my cup on the flat top of a nearby fence post and carefully

checked the gauge. In a twenty four hour period and at precisely 7:45 in the morning, we had

received 1.58 inches of rain! In July!

With rain still coming down and a chance of rain the next day! Did I mention it was July in Texas?

Like a demented man I just stood there in the rain and was happy and thankful for this day that the Lord had made. And as my carefully crafted cup of coffee was cooled down and diluted with this blessing, I didn't even care.

If you, too, are passionate about nature and wild things and enjoy learning, why don't you consider joining the Indian Trail Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists? Check out our website (<http://txmn.org/indiantrail/>) for meetings and information. We would love to have you.



X Libris

Our library – has grown by seven more volumes:

The Bird Feeder Book by Donald and Lillian Stokes • *Winter World* by Bernd Heinrich • *Skywatching: A Nature Company Guide*: by David H. Levy • *The Power of Limits* by Gyorgy Doczi (My personal favorite book on proportional harmonies in nature) • *Nests* by Sharon Beals • *America's Neighborhood Bats* by Merlin D. Tuttle • *Hummingbirds and Butterflies* by Bill Thompson III and Connie Toops. Thanks to Travis N. Edwards for his generous donation.

INDIAN TRAIL MASTER NATURALISTS ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

September/October 2013

Links and contact information may be used to find training opportunities announced after this list is published. Send AT approval requests to Jack Dunaway at jackd_sr@hotmail.com.

North Texas Chapter MN <http://www.ntmn.org/new/>
September 3 - Urban Bobcat Tracking Study

Rio Brazos Chapter MN <http://www.riobrazosmn.org/>
September 5: Diane and Walt Berk - Audubon Master Birder Certification Program

Blackland Prairie MN <http://bptmn.org/>
September 10 - Duke Monson, Trinity Trail Preservation Assn. - Lake Lavon Trail

September 12, 2013–CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar
“The Hundred Hunt for the Red Sprite” presented by Walt Lyons of FMA Research, Inc. in Fort Collins, CO
Time: 1:00 PM Eastern, Noon Central, 11:00 AM Mountain, 10:00 AM Pacific

This presentation will document one of the most unexpected scientific findings in the atmosphere during the late 20th century...the discovery of the red sprite (<http://www.skyfire.tv/index.cgi/Sprites.html>).

For over a century, people, including well respected scientists, had reported seeing strange lights in the night sky about thunderstorms—and they were. But it remained for a “happy accident” in 1989 when the first such event was captured on a low-light camera’s video tape. One researcher exclaimed it was as if Biology had just suddenly discovered a new human body part. Since then, an entire “zoo” of luminous creatures has been found in the thin air above thunderstorms. And the discoveries are still being made. We will discuss how the public can become engaged in the search for new thunderstorm-related electrical phenomena. After the presentation, you can also take the online “Sprite Quiz” and receive your score and a certificate of completion!” This is approved for A/T for ITMN members.

Sept 14: The CORE, Central Texas Chapter Tmn training for Texas Stream Team Volunteer Monitor Certification will be conducted at the Killeen Community Center, on the corner of W.S. Young and Business 190. Class is limited to 25 registrants.

Additional information will be provided as available. To register, contact Richard McCarthy, Central Texas Chapter Master Naturalist, rgm3372010@live.com

ELM Fork Chapter MN
<http://www.txmn.org/elmfork/calendar/>
September 19: Ryan Blankenship - Threats and Pressures to Herpetofauna in Texas

October 8 - Ken Steigman, Director of LLELA The Heard Natural Science Museum1 Nature PlaceMcKinney, TX 75069 www.heardmuseum.org
Please join us at the Heard’s Science Resource Center on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

EFCMN General Meeting
H:940.349.2883 Fx: 940-349-2881

Texas Parks and Wildlife Programs:
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/texas_nature_trackers/

Wildlife for Lunch Webinars
Sep 19, 2013, October 17, 2013, November 14, 2013
<http://texas-wildlife.org/files/WFL%20webinar%20flyer%20-%20full%20page%202012.pdf>

To learn more about wildlife and land management from your own computer, watch this webinar series from 12-1 pm every 3rd Thursday. Use the link above to find out more info.

DOGWOOD CANYON Volunteer Training
September 21, 2013, 9:00 – 5:00

Volunteer opportunities include habitat/trail maintenance, education programming for all ages, administration, animal care, guiding hikes, nature store, marketing, special events and much more

To learn more and to register, contact Julie Collins at jcollins@audubon.org or call 469/526-1991.

Indian Trails MN, Red Oak Library, 200 Lakeview Parkway, Red Oak, TX 75154. Program begins at 7:00 PM

Sept -23 ITMN Meeting/Wildscapes–Derek Broman, Urban Biologist.

Oct- 28 ITMN Meeting/Creepy Crawlies, aka Spiders–Mike Merchant, Professor & Entomologist.

INDIAN TRAIL MASTER NATURALIST OUTSIDE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

(Note: all AT for ITMNers must be pre-approved by Jack Dunaway)

<http://www.brit.org/> The BRIT Team volunteers the FIRST (note change of date) Saturday each month. Training is available for new participants. Contact ITMN Team Coordinator Debbie Pierce.

Texas Society for Ecological Restoration:

<http://txser.org/>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center:

<Ttp://www.wildflower.org/events/>

Invaders of Texas – When: TBD

Organized by the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, this program teaches you to identify and map the location of invasive plant species that threaten our Texas landscape. Once we collect our data, we'll remove these invasive plants and help keep Dogwood Canyon healthy!

Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)

Extended Education Classes: Boost your understanding of basic botany concepts and experience the collections and field research through continuing education courses taught by BRIT botanists and staff via Texas Christian University's (TCU) Extended Education Program. BRIT members receive a 10 percent discount on course fees. Teachers earn Certified Professional Education (CPE) credit. To register for a course, follow the instructions listed in the TCU Learner's Guide or register online through TCU's Extended Education web site.

<http://www.brit.org/>

CoCoRaHS Webinars: none currently scheduled

John Bunker Sands Wetland Center:

www.wetlandcenter.com

John DeFillipo, Director

655 Martin Lane, Seagoville, TX 75159

972.474.9100, jdefillipo@wetlandcenter.com

Fort Worth Nature Center:

Contact Fort Worth Nature Center at 817.392.7410 or anne.hamman@fortworthtexas.gov.

Dogwood Canyon Citizen Science

<http://tx.audubon.org/Dogwood.html>

Everyone can play a role in conserving Texas'

amazing wild and natural areas! Get involved in citizen science at Dogwood Canyon. Citizen science projects use data you collect to help inform conservation and management of our plants, animals, and native ecosystems.

For more information about citizen science at Dogwood Canyon and how you can participate, please contact Tania Homayoun by email or (469) 526-1986. Please check back as we add more projects.

When: Daily, Year-round

Did you know that your morning of bird watching can also benefit bird conservation and research? Learn how to use eBird, an online citizen science database that collects bird observations from around North America and beyond to study how our bird populations are changing. Contribute your observations to help us build a species list for Dogwood Canyon!

Ft Worth Audubon Society

www.fwas.org Monthly Meetings The Fort Worth Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month (except summer months). A birding ID session begins at 6:50 p.m., with the general meeting commencing at 7:30. Meetings are now held in the Research and Education (RES) Bldg., Everett Hall, Room 100, at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (formerly Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine), which is on 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard (at Montgomery Street).

Programs are about one hour and are approved AT for ITMN members. The bird ID session before the meeting is typically about 30 minutes long and also is approved AT.

Ft Worth Zoo Education Programs

<http://www.fortworthzoo.org/education/teachers/>

Trinity River Workshops: www.trinitywaters.org

Trinity River Audubon Center:

http://www.trinityriveraudubon.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Discover_CitizenScience

Dallas Zoo Education Programs:

<http://www.dallaszooed.com/>

Dallas Arboretum Education Programs:

<http://www.dallasarboretum.org/AdultEducation/Sp>

INDIAN TRAIL MASTER NATURALISTS OUTSIDE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Continued

Texas Discovery Gardens

http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/events_and_classes.php

Program manager (214) 428-7476 x 240 or programs@texasdiscoverygardens.org for details on classes and events. To register over the phone, call (214) 428-7476 x 343.

Links and contact information may be used to find training opportunities announced after this list is published.

HELP WANTED

ITMN and the Red Oak Library are partnering for An Evening of Moon Exploration also known as International Observe the Moon Night. This will be a little different from the night hikes we have led at Mockingbird Nature Park. The Texas Astronomical Society will be sending a couple of astronomers with telescopes and hopefully a perspectives display of our solar system. The Library will assist with “moon” readings and a professor from Navarro College will be speaking about astronomy apps for mobile devices. In addition, we will hold moonlight hikes.

This event will be held at Cherry Creek Nature Preserve in Red Oak on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. Cherry Creek is across the freeway from the library and Sharon has posted a map on our website.

We would like to have volunteers for the following tasks: 2 for registration/sign-in/refreshments; 2 hike

leaders; 2 sweepers; 2 for the perspective activities (easy, peasy); 1 to assist the professor; 1 to assist the astronomers; and 1 to assist the readers. We will be happy to have more than those 11 volunteers though so let us know if you can help. And if you can't or don't want to help, at least come out and have a good time with us.

In addition to volunteers we need a basketball. If you have one that we can use, please contact Charlie or Rebecca.

Tentatively we have scheduled a clean-up hour on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 5 p.m. to sweep out the pavilion, pick up any trash and possibly trim a few branches. We would like to have a practice following the clean-up for the perspective activity & the moonlight hike. If necessary we will have a second practice on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. Members are asked to arrive on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

For those of you interested in participating in the Dragonfly Pond Watch and/or other dragonfly field research projects, here are the websites to check out:

<http://www.xerces.org/dragonfly-migration/pondwatch/>

<http://www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org/index/welcome>

<http://www.odonatacentral.org/>

And here are the links to the webinars on dragonflies which have been approved for AT:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QrPJFQ-0lk#t=14>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9gbk8q-sqM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Tt1l0XCW0s>

There is one more, put out by the USDA on Dragonfly Conservation that I need to get approval on for AT (*Jack, could you copy your approval/disapproval to the whole group for this webinar?*)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1LiBs8lgFs&feature=youtu.be>

If you participate, log your time under Field Research/Dragonfly, similar to doing the Cornell watches. Thanks, everyone.

Carolyn G

OUT & ABOUT

WHEN THE CALL WENT OUT THAT DOGWOOD CANYON needed help with the Fourth Annual Butterflies and Bugs! Family Festival at the Texas Discovery Garden in Dallas on August 3rd, Indian Trail Master Naturalist trainees and members quickly filled the slot.

Kathleen Mack, Chris Cook and Celia Yowell enjoyed a day of passing out brochures, answering questions and helping children color masks. There was even time to take a tour of the marvelous Butterfly House at the Discovery Gardens.

Celia Yowell doing a little connecting with some young folks who stopped by.



WE'VE DONE TWO FAUNA SURVEYS SO FAR AT Mockingbird Park (copies at the end of this newsletter). We have started doing these surveys on the first Monday of each month and you are all invited to help. You don't need to be an expert at identifying everything, but sharp eyes for noticing small things are a plus (but not a requirement) for helping with this. Note taking things, a camera, magnifying glass are good to bring along.

So far, we just walk the trails and identify the birds and as many insects (mammals, too, if we're lucky) as we can, or take photos, and/or good notes to identify

later. But we could leave the trails for more in depth study if/when needed.

If you are interested in taking this fauna survey on as leader, please let me know. I just wanted to get it off the ground and will continue until someone else takes it over. It is an important part of our work at Mockingbird Nature Park so needs to be done on a regular and consistent basis. It does not have to be taken on a Monday, it just coincided with our regular walks and work days at the park. We will use the information gathered to update our checklists for the park. – *Carolyn Gritzmaker*

OUR TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST STATEWIDE Annual Meeting and Advanced Training is fast approaching and will be held October 25 - 27th at the T bar M Conference Center in New Braunfels, TX. Detailed information, if you haven't already received it via email, is available from Eileen or Charlie. For now, we'll cut to the chase.

TMN Annual Meeting Photo and Art Contest Rules

Entries must be submitted by 7:00 p.m. on Friday, the opening day of the meeting, at the area designated for art and photos. The entries must be labeled with the owners name, chapter, category and title of the work.

- All entries must be the original work of and submitted by a Master Naturalist volunteer.
- Photos must be Texas-specific (i.e. taken in Texas).
- Entries are limited to one per category per individual.

- Photographs should be 8x10 and mounted on a stiff backing for display purposes.
- The photos must be unmated, unframed and have no digital enhancements.
- Categories: (1) Plants, (2) Wildlife, (3) Scenic and (4) Master Naturalist at Work/Play.
- Art categories: (1) drawings & paintings, (2) sculpture & Carvings and (3) sewing and stitchery.
- The scrapbooks, chapter newsletters and chapter brochures compete in separate categories.

Judging will be done by: (1) by a panel of judges and (2) popular vote of the attendees. Awards will be for both judging types. Ballots for the popular vote are found in your registration packet. Winners will be announced during the Awards Ceremony on Sunday morning. If there are less than five entries in a given photo or art category, a placement ribbon may not be awarded.

MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM MISSION:

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

INDIAN TRAIL CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Eileen Berger	<i>President@itmnc.com</i>
VP/Programs: Carolyn Ross	<i>Programs@itmnc.com</i>
VP/Projects: Rebecca Schumacher	<i>Projects@itmnc.com</i>
Treasurer: Peggy Bailey.....	<i>Information@itmnc.com</i>
Secretary: Charlie Grindstaff.....	<i>Information@itmnc.com</i>
Advanced Training: Jack Dunaway.....	<i>Information@itmnc.com</i>
Historian: Debbie Pierce	<i>Information@itmnc.com</i>
Host Chair: Debee Arnold	<i>Information@itmnc.com</i>
Membership Chair: Elaine Ruby.....	<i>Information@itmnc.com</i>
Event Registration:	<i>Registration@itmnc.com</i>
Training Co-Chairs: Paul/Charlie Grindstaff	<i>Training@itmnc.com</i>
Office Manager: Kitty Smith.....	<i>Information@itmnc.com</i>
Editorial Chair: Kitty Smith	<i>Information@itmnc.com</i>
Newsletter: Jim West, Kathleen Mack, Jean Kastanek	<i>Newsletter@itmnc.com</i>
Outreach/Publicity Co-Chairs: Pam/Joe Mundo	<i>Information@itmnc.com</i>
Webmaster: Sharon Lane	<i>Webm@itmnc.com</i>

PROJECT CHAIRS & LIAISONS(*)

Box Turtle Survey.....	Carolyn Gritzmaker
Texas Turtle Watch.....	Carolyn Gritzmaker
Mockingbird Nature Park	Aaron Gritzmaker
Stream Team	Maureen Nitkowski
Project Wild.....	Rebecca Schumacher
CoCoRaHS.....	Carolyn Gritzmaker
Wolf Creek Park.....	Sharon Lane
Bardwell Lake Co-Chairs.....	Peggy Bailey & Kitty Smith
Kachina Prairie.....	Carolyn Ross
Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center	*Rex Reves
Botanical Research Institute of Texas	*Debbie Pierce
John Bunker Sands Wetland Center.....	*Jim West & *Peggy Bailey

Two young entomologists, known as The Bug Chicks, and a green couch are doing a US movie tour and they will be swinging through Texas. I approached them about speaking/meeting with us and, they may well do just that. Stay tuned.



Texas Bimella boyer © Jim West



AN EVENING OF MOON EXPLORATION

Saturday, October 12 at 7 p.m.
Cherry Creek Nature Preserve

Telescope Viewing of the Moon, Stars & Planets
Moonlight Hikes led by Master Naturalists
Prose & Poetry “Moon” Readings
Astronomy Apps for Mobile Devices
Perspective Activities
Refreshments

This free family friendly event is sponsored by the Red Oak Library and the Indian Trail Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program.

Closed-toe shoes, long pants, and bug spray are recommended. Adults bring a flashlight. Plan to be outdoors at least two hours. Bring a friend.

Registration is required at indiantrailmn@gmail.com.

Directions to Cherry Creek Nature Preserve: From I-35 take Red Oak Road going east; turn south on Live Oak St.; turn east on Waller St. and south on Pecan Creek Street which dead ends at Cherry Creek Nature Preserve.

Event cancelled if it is raining.

Indian Trail Chapter is part of the statewide Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer Program of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The Mission ...to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

For information, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension at 972-825-5175 or email: Information@itmnc.com