Llano Estacado Master Naturalist Curriculum Guide

Unit 3: Historical Naturalists of Texas

What gets us into trouble is not what we don’t know. It is what we know for sure that just ain’t so.

**Mark Twain**

Unit Goals: After completing this unit, volunteers should be able to:

* understand the importance of expeditions and surveys in the natural history of Texas,
* discuss the history of naturalists and in Texas and their accomplishments,
* identify the most significant naturalists of Texas.

1. Write your definition of a naturalist.
2. Notes from presentation:

**Historical Expeditions and Naturalists**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Date** | **Texas Region of Work** | **Contribution** |
| **Historical Expeditions and Surveys** | | | |
| Randolph Barnes Marcy | 1812-1887 |  | Early contact with indigenous peoples, guidebook on border and frontier travel |
| Charles Wright | 1811-1885 |  | Surveyor by trade, botanist by interest, later acting director of Gray Herbarium |
| **Early Naturalists** | | | |
| Jean Louis Berlandier | 1805-1851 | NE Mexico and Texas | Extensive identification of region’s botany and faunal collections. Detailed descriptions of natural setting, settlers and native Americans |
| Thomas Drummond |  | Austin, Galveston area, Edwards Plateau, Brazos, Colorado and Guadalupe Rivers | Enthusiastic and well recognized collector whose collections became the basis for other’s academic work |
| Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer | 1801-1879 | Mexico, Hill Country | Father of Texas Botany, contract collector for Asa Gray and Engelmann, German educated, guided early German immigrants |
| Gustav Wilhelm Belfrage | 1834-1882 | East West and South Texas | Swedish descent, extensive insect collections which he sold or exchanged to many institutions |
| John Allen Singley | 1850- 1908 |  | Naturalist and ornithologist, worked as geological assistant on Geologic Survey of Texas, commercially sold specimens, first comprehensive list of Texas mollusks, annotated bird species list from Lee County, lower Rio Grande, Galveston |
| Henry Philemon Atwater | 1854-1931 | Texas | Collector and conservationist; came to Texas in 1884 to collect bird specimens which contributed to collections and research papers; promoted agriculture and business interest for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Elected president of the Audubon Society in 1900, devoted to protection of wildlife and an important influence on conservation efforts in and out of Texas |
| Florence Merriam Bailey | 1863-1948 | Texas | Early interest in studying birds and desire for people to observe birds around them led to her to develop simple bird guides with field keys for identification; travelled extensively with her husband Vernon in NM, CA, ND, OR including a 360 mile wagon trip from Texarkana to the Mexican line near King Ranch. |
| Barton Warnock | 1911-1998 | West Texas especially Big Bend area | Native Texas and legendary botanist, the Botanist of Big Bend; returned to his alma mater, Sul Ross, to teach before retiring to pursue his passion studying the plants of his beloved Big Bend; his Wildflowers guide books influenced the next generation of botanists |
| Valgene W. Lehmann | 1913-1987 | Texas | Native Texas, pioneer of wildlife management and proponent of working with landowners to practice the best land stewardship; made King Ranch a model for best practices in wildlife management. |
| **Modern-Day Naturalists** | | | |
| Elmer Kleb | 1907-1999 | East Texas | Born with a love of his land; lived to restore his land and leave it as a legacy to future generations crating the Kleb Woods Nature Preserve |
| Edward C. “Ned” Fritz | 1916-2008 | North Texas | Legal advocate for conservation, visionary leader and the Father of Texas Wilderness; first person to file a lawsuit under the National Environmental Policy Act; Founded the Texas Nature Conservancy, Texas League of Conservation Voters and the Natural Area Preservation Association. |

Information from Haggerty, M.M. and M.P. Meuth, eds. Texas Master Naturalists Statewide Curriculum, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX p-. 117