

Tierra Grande at Monahans Sand Hills State Park



In an animal tracking class organized by CDRI and led by Tierra Grande Chapter members Jonah and Ciel Evans, attendee Dana Milani spotted the track of a Western Massasauga, *Sistrurus catenatus tergeminus*, a fairly rare rattler. She followed the track right up to the sleeping snake. Notice the snake's track to the right in the picture as it dug a little hollow to partially bury itself. Way to go Dana! Thanks Jonah and Ciel for a great class. Alan Tennant, author of Texas Snakes plans to include this spotting in the next edition.

POSTED BY AGBORK AT 2:20 PM

1 COMMENT:



[Patt](#) June 6, 2010 at 3:24 PM

Do not wake sleeping snakes! According to legend, when Elder Brother first created the Earth by making a ball of mud and sand and having the spiders weave it all into place, to each animal he gave something unique. To the rattlesnake he gave the rattle. All the other animals enjoyed the rattle and whenever they saw the rattle snake they would say, "Hey, brother snake, rattle a tune!". Sometimes the rattle snake was asleep and

this "rattle a tune" comment would awaken the snake....sometimes leaving it in a bad mood. One day Elder Brother was walking around and saw the rattlesnake and asked how it was going. He was surprized by the snake's terse comment of "fine". "Fine?" asked Elder Brother who thought something must be going on. He asked the snake more questions, eventually hearing the story of how the snake couldn't get any sleep because everyone wanted him to "rattle a tune". At the end of the conversation, Elder Brother took two thorns from a nearby mesquite and jammed them in the roof of the snake's mouth. "Next time someone wakes you up", Elder Brother said, "Bite'em"

A foot note to that story, snakes do not have eyelids, so it is very difficult to tell if the snake is sleeping or just hoping it won't be seen.