

# Hays County

# Texas Master Naturalist Newsletter

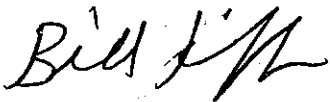
Volume III No. 4

April-May 2001

Master Naturalist Association Meeting: April 19, 2001 -7:00 p.m. @ Extension Service Office

MN Class Meeting: Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Freeman Ranch 6:00-9 p.m.



**Billy Kniffen**  
County Extension Agent  
Hays County

*"Nature is beautiful, beautiful everywhere, where manland does not make it ugly; subjectively by means of its moods. Objectively by means of its destruction and waste.." - Ferdinand Lindhemer, 1852.*



Many of you missed getting the newsletter prior to the April 10<sup>th</sup> Program at Aquarena Springs. For use of there facilities we will be required to **identify the plants on the trail on the hill opposite the lake. How about Monday, May 7 at 5 p.m. to**

**start.** If you can not get there by that time - come when you can. We will probably work till sunset. Then enjoy the sunset and go home. Everyone is welcome to come.

**Plant presses - now** is a good time to press those winter flowers, grasses and flowers of the woody plants.

**Thanks** to those volunteering at Aquarena Springs with the Texas Watch program. **Thanks Frank, Betty, Jerry, Ryan and Kevin.**

**MN Association meeting on April 19.** You are encouraged to come and participate in the association formed by the previous classes.

**San Marcos Home and Garden Show - April 21** at the Activity Center. We will have a booth and need volunteers to help there. In the afternoon will be sessions on rainwater harvesting from 2-5 p.m.

Volunteers signed up:  
registration in morning:

**Doug Holcomb**  
**Kaylene Ray**

**Cathering Glesener**  
registration - afternoon:

**Alice Johnson**  
**Buck Scheib**

booth - Morning:

**Joe Elizarde**

**Susie&Doug Higgins**

booth afternoon:

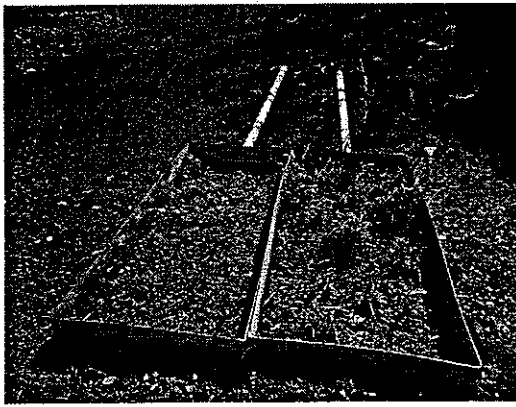
**Deborah Lewis**

**Need more volunteers at booth both morning and afternoon.**

Also need help with setup for rainwater harvest program in afternoon.



Part of great crew planting seeds at Fulton's Ranch in Skyline Estates in Wimberley. Hard job! We will have a field trip out there in late June or July to observe the results of our work. (There was evidence of horses in the hay).



Paired plot at Jacob's Well. One on right planted in prairie grasses. The one on left is in natural state. Containers on far end will catch runoff.

Don't forget road kills.

## Youth Range/Natural Resource Camp will be on

**June 25-27** at the SWT Recreation Area near Wimberley. We will need volunteers to help with parts of it but also to recruit any school age youth ages 12-18. I'll have forms soon. Cost \$12.

### Thought of a class mascot?

Bob Cats  
 Buzzards  
 Horned Toads  
 Wild Turkeys  
 We will vote on these or others next month.

**Spring Wildflower Days - April 7-8.** The Master Naturalists helped at the LBJ Wildflower Center on April 7-8, 2001 answering questions and providing information. Helpers: Jerry&Laurie Pinnix, Penny Stone, Susie&Doug Higgins, Kevin Ryan, Joan Ryan,

Kathy Johnson, Kay Beth Williams, Helen Mihic, Joe Day, Ricky Wright, Rip Windhager, Randy Moss, Kevin Ryan, Brtty Watkins, Ken Smith, and Debbie Peel. Thanks to all.

### Projects Needing Help.

1. The Elm Grove Elementary will put in a rainwater harvesting tank, and need our help designing a native area, wildscape, wooded area, paths, and wildflower area. **Help is needed now to design and plant plants there. Let me know now if you can help.**

2. The San Marcos Interpretive Center needs help from both Master naturalists and Master gardeners to plant seeds and finish planting the succulent and grass beds. Linda Keese and Velma Hasty are in charge. It will be a great place.

3. Prepare spot and connect water storage tank at DeZavala Grade School in San Marcos to water butterfly garden area. Jerry Pinnix, Curtis Chubb and Betty Watkins have volunteered, I need a couple more to help

7. Make name tags Walter Krudop has already begun to make name tags for the current Master Naturalist class ☺.

8. Volunteers to help make bird feeders/houses for schools. Joe Elizarde (roadrunner class) leads this project.

9. Help needed to dig up and pot plants near Wimberley where

road is to be widened. We can rescue some grass for planting in projects. Let me know if you can help.

### Indian Paintbrush -Texas Paintbrush - Prairie

**Paintbrush?** *Castilleja* family with about 200 species in the world. What we sometimes call Indian Paintbrush is listed in some books as Texas Paintbrush. This is an annual semiparasitic plant, *Castilleja indivisa*, that when its roots hit the roots of another plant in burrows into that root and feeds on it. It prefers sandier soils but has been broadcast by TDOT for many years and is one of the first wildflowers to bloom in the spring. There are 3 perennial forms in Hill Country of Texas and are a variety of colors but mainly yellow-Var. *citrina*, orange-Var. *Lindheimeri* or purple-Var. *Purpurea*.



### Trumpet Creeper:

*Campsis radicans*. I may have once said this is not native to us but admit that there are native colonies here along riparian areas. This climbing vine or vine-like shrub produces large red-orange flowers about 2 ½ inches long.



What a great team! That was a group of hard-hard workers at Interpretive Center in San Marcos on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March. We will need a little more help soon to finish. Also, another area will be seeded in tall grass prairie seed there soon.

### What is a riparian area?

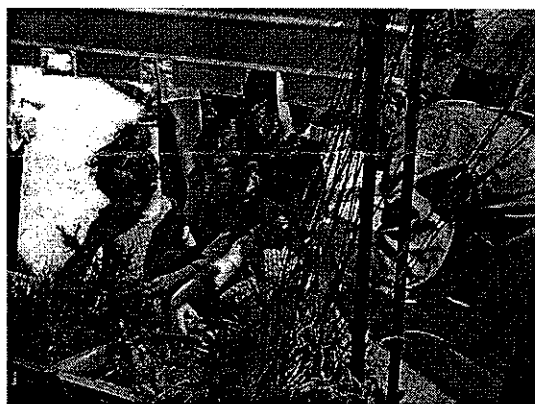
Riparian areas are the margins of streams, rivers and intermittent draws, where vegetation is strongly influenced by the presence of water. Riparian-dependent plant communities differ markedly from those of the immediately surrounding non-riparian habitats. While comprising only a small portion of the total habitat in Texas, riparian zones are some of the most productive for native wildlife.

**Hays County Master Naturalist  
Web Site:**

<http://www.home.earthlink.net/~belbecampos/masternaturalist.html>

**Texas Master Naturalist Web Site:**

<http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>



Ken Smith helping at Wildflower Center.

### **Dates to Remember:**

- April 19:** Hays County Master Naturalist Association meeting - 7 p.m.  
Extension office
- April 21:** San Marcos Home and Garden Show
- April 28:** 6:00 a.m. Birding with Beryl Armstrong
- April 29-May 6:** Texas Soil and Water Stewardship Week
- May 1:** Site Visit - Joan Ryan (all invited)
- May 3:** Site visit - Rip Windhanger (all invited)
- May 4-6:** 4-H Sports Fishing Leader Training-Brownwood
- May 7:** Identify plant at Aquarena - 4 p.m. - sunset
- May 8:** Wildflower Tour - 9:00 a.m.
- May 8:** Master Naturalist Class - Barron Rector
- May 10:** Triad Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- May 12:** Frank Zimmerman Ranch Tour with Dr. Lew Hunnicutt 9:00  
a.m.
- May 16:** Landscaping with native grasses at Interpretive Center noon-1
- May 17:** Master Gardener Association meeting
- May 19:** Bamberger Ranch tour, Johnson City 8:30 - 1:00
- May 23-24:** West Texas Deer Study Group, Uvalde

# BIRD WATCHING



Saturday □ April 28

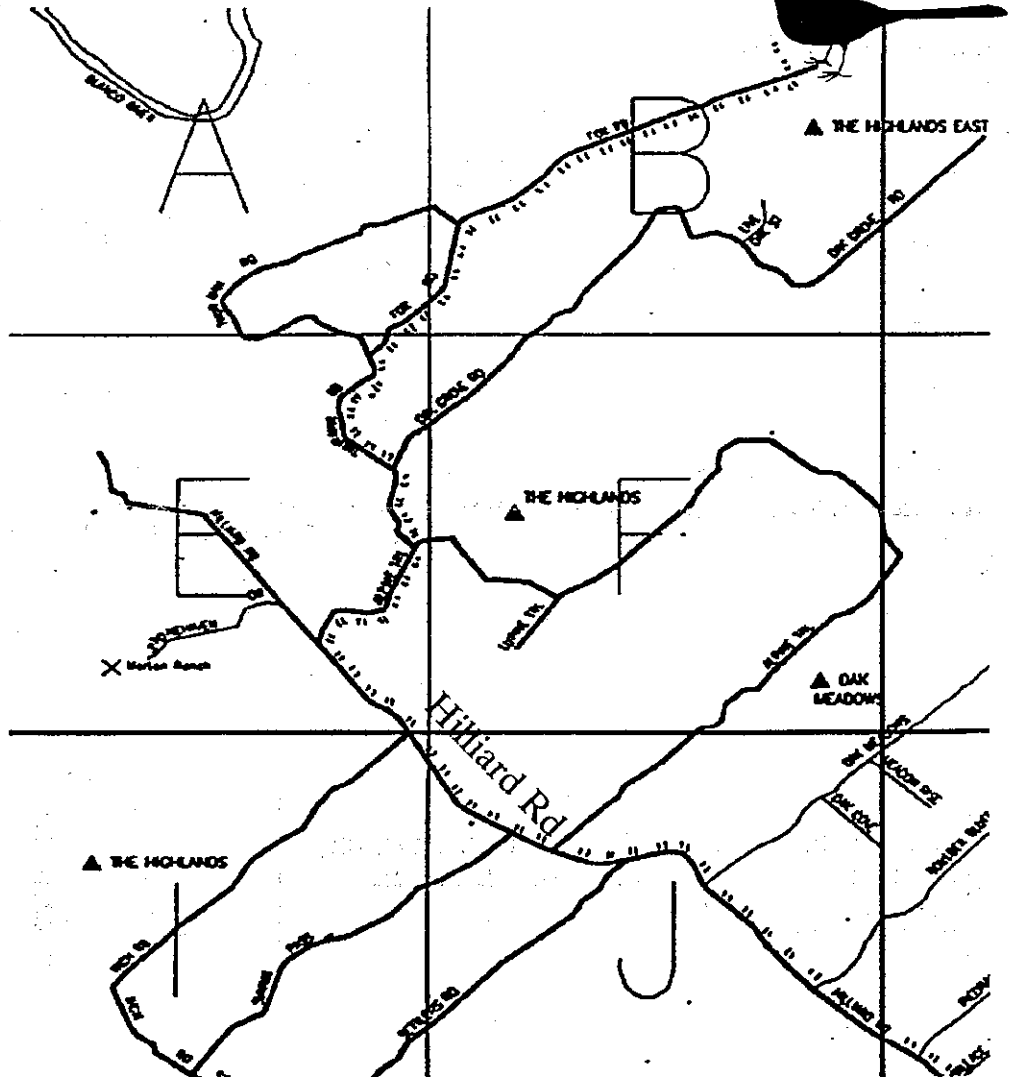
6:45 AM

Johnson Ranch

Guided by Beryl Armstrong

Call Kay  
Beth Williams  
if you want to  
go.  
268-2522

**DIRECTIONS:** From I35 take exit 206 (Aquarena Springs Rd) 0.7 miles to Post Rd on right. Take Post Rd 0.3 miles to Lime Kiln Rd on the left. Stay on Lime Klin for 2.0 miles to Hilliard Rd (CR 222) on the left. Stay on Hilliard Rd for 5.3 miles to Alpine Trail. Check your mileage and don't turn on the first Alpine Trail, go the full 5.3 miles to the second Alpine. Take a right on Alpine Trail for 0.3 miles to Thurman Rd. Go left on Thurman Rd for 0.6 miles to Fox Rd. Right on Fox Rd to the end of the cul-de-sac. It is the last gate on the left.



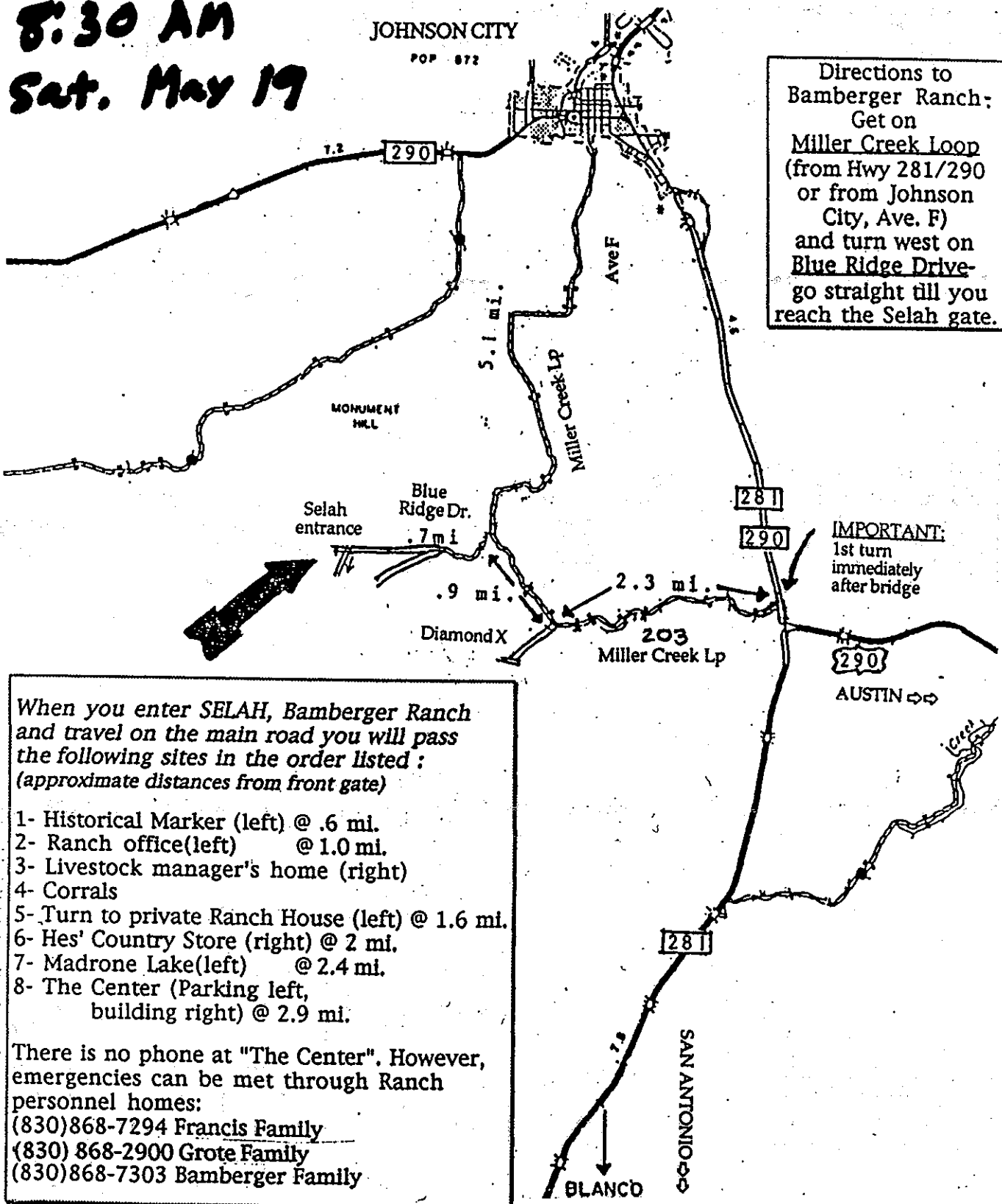
# SELAH

BAMBERGER RANCH

**8:30 AM**  
**Sat. May 19**

JOHNSON CITY  
POP 872

Directions to  
Bamberger Ranch:  
Get on  
Miller Creek Loop  
(from Hwy 281/290  
or from Johnson  
City, Ave. F)  
and turn west on  
Blue Ridge Drive-  
go straight till you  
reach the Selah gate.

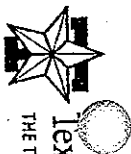


**IMPORTANT:**  
1st turn  
immediately  
after bridge

When you enter SELAH, Bamberger Ranch and travel on the main road you will pass the following sites in the order listed : (approximate distances from front gate)

- 1- Historical Marker (left) @ .6 mi.
- 2- Ranch office(left) @ 1.0 mi.
- 3- Livestock manager's home (right)
- 4- Corrals
- 5- Turn to private Ranch House (left) @ 1.6 mi.
- 6- Hes' Country Store (right) @ 2 mi.
- 7- Madrone Lake(left) @ 2.4 mi.
- 8- The Center (Parking left, building right) @ 2.9 mi.

There is no phone at "The Center". However, emergencies can be met through Ranch personnel homes:  
 (830)868-7294 Francis Family  
 (830) 868-2900 Grote Family  
 (830)868-7303 Bamberger Family



Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

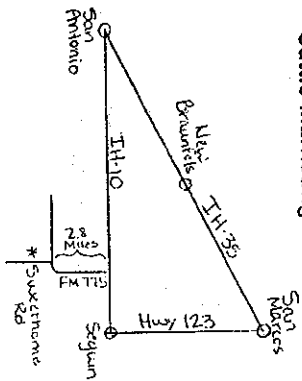
# BEEF/FORAGE FIELD DAY

Saturday, April 28, 2001  
Kubena Ranch

located .5 mile south of FM 775 on Sweethome Road

Registration 8:30-9:00 a.m.  
Program 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Cost \$10/person  
3 General CEU's will be offered

- TOPICS:
- Weed and Brush Control
  - Forage Production
  - Beef Cattle Management
  - Cattle Marketing



Please call one of the following extension offices to sign up.  
Bexar Co - 210-467-6575  
Comal Co - 830-620-3440  
Guadalupe Co - 830-378-1972  
Hays Co - 512-393-2120

"Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (830) 379-2153 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made."  
Extension program serves people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.  
A member of The Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program.

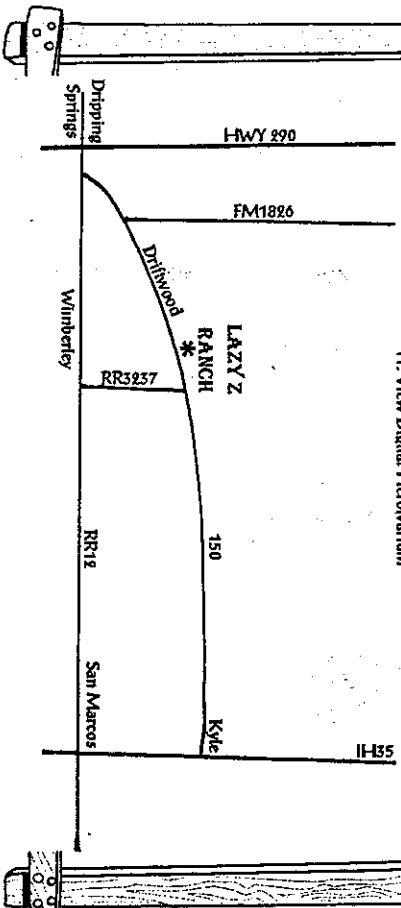
# LAZY Z RANCH

MAY 12 - 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Ranch tour and picnic in Pecan Bottom on the banks of the lovely Onion Creek.. Bring your own picnic lunch.

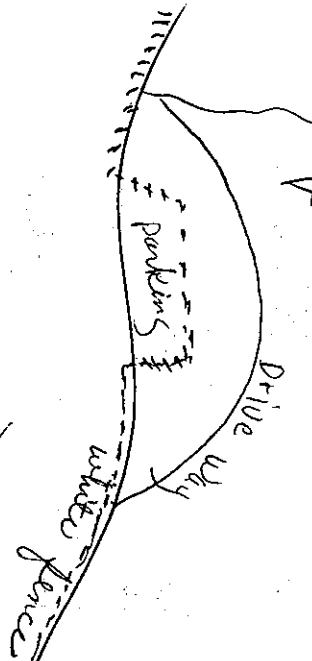
Frank & Jan Zimmerman and Lou Hunticutt will present:

1. Ranch History and Goals
2. Soil Data
3. Water conservation & Landscaping
4. Greenhouse, Herb Garden and Peach Orchard
5. Cattle & Wildlife Management
6. Nature Walk to identify wildflowers, grasses, and trees
7. Walk up Creek to view Lindheimer & seep mulch, ferns and rattan vines
8. View Wildlife: Deer, Wild Turkey, Birds, Butterflies & Insects
9. Adobe Range Site
10. Cemetery
11. View Digital Herbivarium



Ranch Visit  
May 1 5:30 PM

★  
1830' Camino Alto



The low Rd.

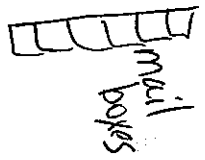
Camino Alto

Purgatory Rd

Spanish Eyes Lane

OPASS  
Drilling

Riley's



RR-32

The Iron Junction

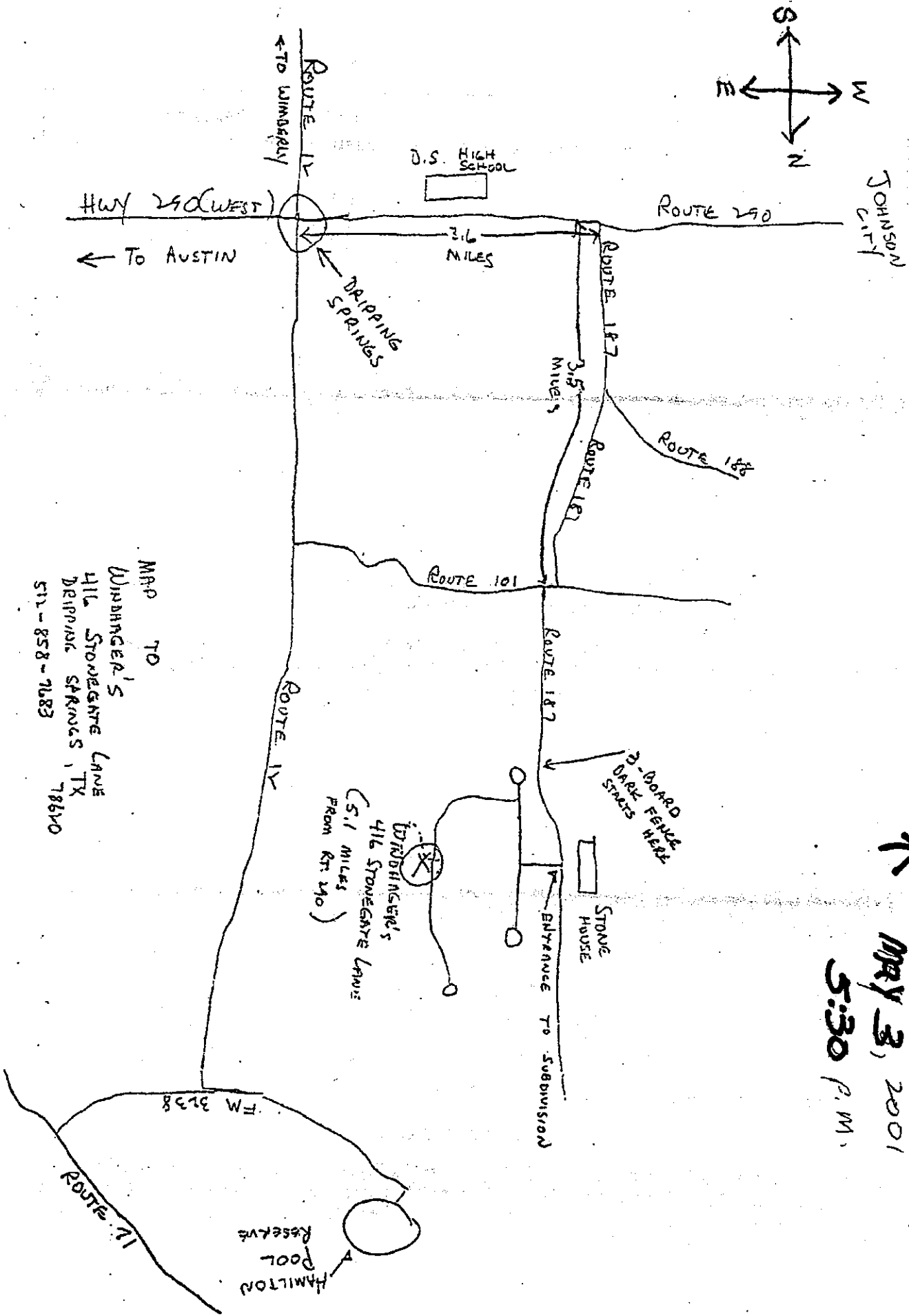
RR-12

RR-12

Winters

Taan Ryan  
1830 Camino Alto  
(830) 964-5611

SUN MARCO'S



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Kanuri v.v.v.v.v.

MASTER NATURALIST

SITE VISIT

APR 3, 2001

5:30 P.M.



**Second Texas Prairies and Savannahs Conference**  
**Workshops and Field Trips June 1 - 3, 2001**  
**"Making a Living on Texas Native Grasslands"**

**Questions?** Call John Pickett at 254-897-3646 or [JDPICK@itexas.net](mailto:JDPICK@itexas.net)  
or visit our website at <http://www.texasprairie.org>.

**June 1 workshops** at Cedar Hill immediately south of Dallas in the Cedar Hill Independent School District Administration Building. We are happy to offer a Workshop on Prairie Grass Identification, taught by Steve Hatch, author and professor at Tx A&M, and a Workshop on Reconstructing a Prairie - Starting from Scratch, taught by Morris Houck, Jr., Plant Materials Center Manager for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. We are also proud to offer in partnership with the Cedar Hill State Park a Service Project on Hands-on Prairie Restoration - restoring an overgrown prairie site at the park. This Service Project meets at Cedar Hill State Park rather than the ISD Building.

**Friday evening social event** at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. Food and a featured presentation by Bruce Williams on Fossil Rim's breeding programs related to prairie species. Cash bar.

**June 2 conference** presentations are in Glen Rose at the Sumervell County Expo Center's Exposition Hall. Presentations on \* successful landowner projects for North Texas, Rolling Plains, Central and South Texas \* info on how-to find markets for prairie plant products such as *Echinacea* and seed hay \* quail management by Quail Unlimited \* prairie dog management by Texas Parks and Wildlife \* wildlife tax valuation \* control of aggressive plants and \* how to find native seeds for restoration projects. Generous lunch and break times allow for plenty of social interaction and time to visit displays. The Native Prairies Association of Texas will hold its 2001 Annual Members Meeting during part of the lunch break.

**Saturday evening social event** includes a cash bar at Fossil Rim, chuck wagon singing, barbeque dinner with pie and ice cream for dessert, and a performance of the highly regarded "Living Texas," a performance history of Texas.

**On June 3** we offer through Holistic Resource Management of Texas a **special all-day workshop** on Holistic Resource Mgt. for landowners at the Sumervell Expo Center. These workshops are usually much longer, so this is your opportunity to get a solid introduction to the material in just one day. This is important for those open to reconsidering their income sources and land management objectives.

**Or, on June 3** you may choose from among three morning **Grand Prairie field trips**: Quail Ridge Ranch with Rhett Johnson, Stella Rowan Prairie with Jeff Quayle, or a Grand Prairie Tour in the Hamilton area with Dr. Joe Velderman (Baylor Univ.)

### **Overnight Accommodations**

Register early as rooms in the area will fill quickly this time of year. **Glen Rose Motor Inn** 254-897-2940, old but clean; register by May 15 for reduced rate of \$59; \$95 for a suite, on Hwy 67. **Days Inn** 817-573-2691 in Granbury 15 miles away; register by May 1 for reduced rate \$69. Camping/RV at Cleburne State Park, Dinosaur Valley State Park, and Meridian SP. Other facilities are listed at our website <http://www.texasprairie.org>.

### **Co-sponsors to date**

Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT), Cedar Hill State Park, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Master Naturalists Program, Plateau Integrated Land & Wildlife, Living Texas, Fossil Rim, Quail Unlimited, Texas Chapter of Society for Ecological Restoration, Texas Section of Society for Range Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, American Farmland Trust, and Bexar Audubon Society.

## Second Texas Prairies and Savannahs Conference

c/o Native Prairies Association of Texas  
 3503 Lafayette Ave.  
 Austin, TX 78722-1807

### Directions for Second Texas Prairies & Savannahs Conference

**Cedar Hill Community Center:** from Dallas take Hwy 67 south to Cedar Hill. Take the Cooper St./ Beltline Rd. exit; at Cooper St. turn right into the parking lot. It is the red brick building).

**Fossil Rim Wildlife Center:** 3 miles sw of Glen Rose turn off Hwy 67 onto CR 2008. Signs will direct you from the main entrance to the right place.

**Sumervell County Expo Center:** 60 mi. sw of Cedar Hill on Hwy 67.

### Registration Form

*If registering for more than one person, use initials to indicate who is signing up for what.*

#### June 1 Cedar Hill ISD Administration Bldg. -- Workshop Registration

- Native Grass ID Workshop taught by Prof. Steve Hatch (9AM-noon) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Hands-on Prairie Restoration Service Project (8AM-noon) led by Paul Baldon  
 Includes some grass identification. Refreshments provided. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 5 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Prairie Reconstruction (from scratch) Workshop by Morris Houck (1PM-4PM) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Evening Social Event at Fossil Rim near Glen Rose \$10 + cash bar**  
 Program by Bruce Williams (registration before May 15th required) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

#### June 2 Conference Registration, including lunch, at Sumervell Expo, Glen Rose

- \* current member of Native Prairies Assoc. of Tx (check your mailing label) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \_\_\_\_\_
- \* non-member (cost includes annual membership in NPAT) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 = \_\_\_\_\_
- 5:30-9:30PM Evening Social Mixer, entertainment: Living Texas, a History presentation, barbeque & cash bar at Fossil Rim (registration before May 15th required)** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16 = \_\_\_\_\_

#### June 3 Field Trips - 8AM to noon, at Sumervell Expo, Glen Rose

- Quail Ridge Ranch lead by Rhett Johnson (limited to first 50 people) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Stella Rowan Prairie led by Jeff Quayle (limited to first 30 people) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Grand Prairie Tour by Dr. Joe Velderman (limited to first 30 people) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

#### June 3 Introduction to Holistic Resource Management 8AM to 5PM

taught by Dr. Wayne Hanselka, Peggy Seachrist, and Jerry Cooke  
 includes notebook & annual membership in HRM of Tx \_\_\_\_\_ x \$125 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Fee: for registrations received after May 15, add \$15** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phones: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make your reservation for accomodations. Write check out to NPAT. Send registration form with your check to NPAT - Conference, 3503 Lafayette Ave., Austin, TX 78722**