



Texas Master Naturalist Newsletter

Master Naturalist Class of 1999-2000

Volume II No. XI

August 2000

Class Meeting: Tuesday, August 8, 2000

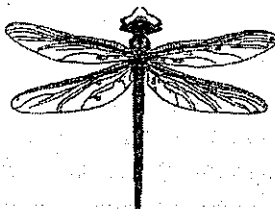
Extension Office

Topics:

- ★ Ecosystems, Prairie Restoration - Dr. Steve Windhager, LBJWC
- ★ Road kill Survey & Observations - Billy Kniffen
- ★ Volunteer Opportunities - Billy Kniffen

Billy Kniffen
County Extension Agent
Hays County

"In dire necessity somebody might write another Iliad, or paint an 'Angelus,' but fashion a goose? . . . If, then, we can live without goose music, we may as well do away with stars, or sunsets, or Iliads. But the point is that we would be fools to do away with any of them." - Aldo Leopold



August's program:

Ecosystems and Land Restoration are part of the topics Dr. Steve Windhager, researcher at the Lady Bird Wildflower Center will discuss at the August 8 meeting at the Extension Office. Steve has lots of experience in research and as a consultant with small and large projects. I am not sure I will be there. I am to be in Jackson, Mississippi Wednesday. (And I am driving).

How about wild turkeys for a mascot? -Either Eastern or Rio Grande variety. (that is what I thought).

Test time. The September meeting will include a written test (open book) and field exercise. Dr. Bob Lyons will wrap up the class with ecology and stewardship.

Graduation: We also need to plan a graduation event and party. Think on this - time, location, committee, etc.

Special Field Trip for You on September 16.

This will be your opportunity to see the largest white tail deer research area in the world. The **Kerr Wildlife Management Area**, west of Kerrville, has many years of research information on deer, cow birds, golden checked warblers, prescribed burning and other wildlife management.

We will start the program there at 10:00 a.m. and it will last till about 3:00 p.m.. We will need to leave about 7:30 from San Marcos and some may want to stop at Kerrville or Fredericksburg after the tour.

Thanks:

Prairie Restoration Program on July 27 - great learning session on prairie restoration by a Dr. Tom Barnes from the University of Kentucky. There are things we can do and learn from with this project. Sign-up. Thanks to the 5 of you who attended (and one new recruit.)

MN/MG/NPSOT Combined monthly programs - the San Marcos Chapter of the Native Plant Society, Master Gardeners Association and Master Naturalist Association will and meet the second Thursday of each month. - August 10 at 7:00 p.m. is the next one. It will be a fun activity building cement/peat moss containers and ice cream social. Then September 14 will be a great session on "Texology". I'll tell you more later.

Help needed to:

- ☉ coordinate contacting speakers and program for next Master Naturalist class to begin in January
- ☉ someone to receive and disperse calls in Kyle/Buda and Dripping Springs area
- ☉ build greenhouse behind extension office
- ☉ work with schools in county on butterfly, prairie, wildscape gardens
- ☉ work on garden plots at Extension Office
- ☉ collect wildflower seeds for kids packets this fall or next spring (everyone can collect a paper bag full)
- ☉ paint PVC pipe going to rainwater collector
- ☉ keep bulletin board organized and up -to-date.
- ☉Others listed in class.

Please evaluate your seed balls, last call - if you have not given me a report- good or bad, please give it to me. Enclosed is a **road kill form**. I

hope you have taken time to write down road kill one week during the month. Thanks for doing it.

Thanks Curtis Chub, Tom Billup and Wayne Underwood for putting in place a great looking 2000 gal.



Curtis has done a great job designing the system.

rainwater collection system. Take time to look at it at the meeting. We will use it to water



Curtis, Wayne and Tom working in 100 degree heat.

plants in a greenhouse I need help building.

Plant Mounts, some of you have already started collecting and pressing plants on your place to keep for future reference. I do have card stock, some clear covers and laminating paper for

you to use as you want. Also hot glue work good to place plants on the mounts. We may have to **set up a work day** or you are welcome to come by for help mounting plants. Discuss it at class.

Ranch tour anyone? We had a great time at the Billup's goat farm looking at ways to enhance stewardship on their ranch. Do I have anyone wanting a group of us to come out their place? Let me know at class time.

"Nature is beautiful, beautiful everywhere, where mankind does not make it ugly; subjectively by means of its mood, objectively by means of its destruction and waste." -Ferdinand Lindheimer, 1852.

Please turn in your volunteer hours. You are required to do 40 hours of volunteer duty **to reach full metamorphosis and earn your wings.** Volunteer hours can start now or as there are projects you would like to work on. It would be great if you had your volunteer hours and advanced training in by graduation. (But it is not required till one year after completion of the course.)

See you next Tuesday.