

Joe Piazza

From: Betty Watkins [b Watkins1@austin.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2003 4:39 PM
To: Undisclosed-Recipient;
Subject: Master Naturalists August Newsletter

Hays County Master Naturalist Newsletter August 2003

Scheduled Class Meetings: Tuesday August 12, 2003~Trees - Jim Rooni, Wildscaping – Kathy Johnson, Wildlife (mammals and herbs) and Habitat – Dr. Randy Simpson

HCMN Chapter Meeting: Thursday August 28, 2003 @ the extension office.
Pot Luck Supper: 6:30PM
Program: 7:00 PM

The speaker is Elizabeth McGreevy Seiler who will discuss Ashe juniper, and its place in the environment.

Elizabeth holds a masters degree in landscape architecture from Texas A&M University and a biology degree from Randolph-Macon Woman's College. Her landscape work includes the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the upgrade of Fort Hood military housing, and the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. On the side, Elizabeth provides native plant lectures and nature walks for the Travis County Master Naturalists, the National Wildlife Habitat program, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the Wild Basin.

For the past 6 years, Elizabeth has been writing a book that synthesizes the ecological and cultural information on the Ashe juniper to provide a balanced perspective of the tree, and its impact on the Hill Country and its people. She has taken part in juniper related discussions on local radio and television and provides lectures for various organizations. The book is currently under review with Texas Tech.

Winifred Simon

Volunteer Projects: Texas Parks and Wildlife's Wildlife Expo (Oct. 4-5)

Statewide Meeting and Advanced Training (Oct. 24-26)

Help update the statewide website:

{<http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu>}

Bracken Cave Bat Watch (Wed. Sept. 3@ 6:00)

Reminders:

Butterfly Boot Camp report

Discussion on Delbert Bassett's Food for Thought article

Davis Mountains Hummingbird Festival – Fort Davis (Aug. 15-18)

Plans for this year's festival include seminars, workshops, field

trips of local birding sights and great hospitality as you look for as many as nine species of hummingbird seen in this area at this time. General birding and bird banding will also be featured . 915-426-3202

Contact: Prude Ranch

Box 1431, Fort Davis, Tx. 79734

Article of Interest:

Protecting undeveloped land is the way to keep wildlife flourishing

Read this article from the Austin American-Statesman. mleggett@statesman.com.

July 17, 2003

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Master Naturalists have worked at DeZavala Elementary School in San Marcos in the past creating a wildscape and installing a rainwater system to irrigate the area. Master Gardeners have been providing upkeep and some expansion of the wildscape.

The school staff is interested in Master Naturalists providing some environmental education programs (which may or may not involve the wildscape) during the upcoming school year. The exact nature of the programs will be dependent on the interests and time commitments of the volunteers.

If you are interested in participating in this project during the 2003-04 school year, please let me know. I need contact information and some idea of your interests and the time commitment you could make. I need to give them some idea of what and how much we may be willing to do by September 1.

I will be out of town from July 28 to Aug 13 and start pulling together the information when I return. Thanks, Betty Watkins

Subject: Wild Basin Trains Volunteer Guides

Kiki Corry

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve

805 North Capital of Texas Highway, Austin, TX. 78746

Phone: (512) 327-7622 Fax: (512) 328-5632

www.wildbasin.org kikic@wildbasin.org

For Immediate Release Wild Basin Trail Guide Training
Austin, Texas

Wild Basin Trains Volunteer Guides

Starting August 20

Call 327-7622 now for times and details

Wild Basin is training new guides for the fall! Trail guides lead groups on hikes through the preserve highlighting the

natural features that make Austin and the Texas Hill Country special. Training includes geology, native plants, and animals and group management. No natural science or hiking experience is necessary.

- * Weekend Guides Training starts September 6, three consecutive Saturday mornings; 9-noon and at least one "shadow" tour. Commitment: One weekend tour a month for six months.
- * Tiny Footprints Guides Training: Starts September 15, three consecutive mornings; 9-noon Commitment: Monday mornings until December 11, 2003.
- * Weekday Guides Training: starts August 20, seven Wednesday mornings; 9-noon. Commitment: One weekday morning a week until December 11, 2003.
- * Wild Afternoon Guides Training: Starts August 22, seven Friday afternoons; 3-6 p.m. Commitment: One weekday afternoon as needed until the end of the year.

Fee - \$25 (refundable after six months of tours)

To register and for more information contact:

Kiki Corry (512) 327-7622 kikic@wildbasin.org

WARNING: Wild Basin trails are habit forming, many guides have been leading tours for more than ten years and show no signs of stopping. Guides have been known to take up careers in preservation and education, become Master Naturalists and participate in many enriching activities.

Thank you for your support of wild Austin and the Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve.

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve is open sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.

Driving Directions: Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve is located at 805 N. Capital of Texas Highway, 1 mile north of Bee Caves Road, or approximately 3 miles south of the Loop 360 Bridge over Lake Austin/Colorado River.

Wild Basin is a 501(c)3 non profit organization dedicated to promoting responsible stewardship through education. Your support will benefit the environmental science programs and tours at Wild Basin.

Come and enjoy the excitement at Wild Basin Wilderness.

Keep Kool,
Melissa Brooks, HCMN, Ringtail class '02

If you would like to receive a mailed copy of this newsletter please notify Betty Watkins, Chapter Secretary at bwatkins1@austin.rr.com or 512-357-9967