

Hays County Master Naturalists NEWSLETTER



-- right here at home -- in the Hill Country

August, 2006

AUGUST EVENTS

Snakes Alive!

DON'T MISS OUR FABULOUS AUGUST 17 MEETING.

DATE: Thursday, August 17

PLACE: Hays County Cooperative Extension office,
1253 Civic Center Loop, San Marcos. Map at
www.hays-tx.tamu.edu

TIME: 6:30 Catered Dinner - about \$7-8

7:30 pm Program: "Snakes of Central Texas".

- An Educational and Entertaining program using live venomous and non-venomous snakes native to Central Texas.

Speaker: Tim Cole

www.AustinReptileService.net is an organization dedicated to the conservation of native Texas reptiles through education. This website provides a Snake Identification Guide specific to Central Texas. The owner, Tim Cole has been keeping reptiles for over four decades and has professional experience working with zoos and scientific field studies. He has been the Reptile Team Leader with [Wildlife Rescue Inc.](http://WildlifeRescueInc.com) in Austin, TX, who he has been working with since 1989. He has achieved the level of State Advanced Certified Animal Control Officer, and has held a Texas Parks & Wildlife rehabilitation permit. He is a founding member of the [Austin Herpetological Society](http://AustinHerpetologicalSociety.org) and has sat on the board of various Herpetological Societies. He also keeps and breeds various species of snakes in his home, for the pet trade and for private collectors. He teaches snake identification and awareness programs to Animal Control Officers, City Utility Departments, State agencies, Cub & Boy Scout groups, and Schools."

For dinner reservations, please RSVP to me (Secretary@haysmn.org). Cancellations should be received 48 hours before the meeting or you will be responsible for reimbursing the chapter for your unclaimed dinner.

--- Susan Nenny ✨

HAYS COUNTY MASTER NATURALISTS

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Editor	Richard Barnett, 512-847-6941, editor@haysmn.org
Extension Agent	Bryan Davis
TP&WD Rep	Lee Ann Linam

THE PRESIDENTIAL VIEW

Greetings, fellow Master Naturalists and Trainees,

Our year was half over at the end of June. Judy has been supplying the board with a monthly update for your volunteer and advanced training reporting. Unfortunately many of you are apparently procrastinating.

If you wait until the last minute, this will overload Judy Telford because she must submit a year-end report to the state office before requesting certification and re-certifications pins and documents.

Moreover, it helps the Board to better understand what we need to do to improve our Chapter. I ask you to take 5 or 10 minutes to go to the HCMN website [Hays County Texas Master Naturalist Chapter](http://HaysCountyTexasMasterNaturalistChapter.org) and fill out the volunteer and AT hours reporting forms there (I report over 100 hours per month and it takes me no more than 5 minutes thanks to Herb's creativity).

You can find the reporting forms on the left margin of the homepage under "Advanced Training" and "Volunteering," respectively. For Volunteering, find the project number under the "approved projects" tab under Volunteering. Then you may open the "online reporting form" found just below that. The form asks you to identify whether you are a trainee or a certified MN by clicking the appropriate box. The form asks for the project

number, location of activity, type of activity (outreach, trail building, management planning, etc.), date (here you can use a date range - 6/1 thru 6/30/2006 - if the project number, activity, and location are the same.

I report the whole month's total hours for each activity this way. You may report your travel time separately or include it in the total, as you prefer. If you include it in the total put "included" in the travel time box. If you have more entries for other activities, you can follow the same procedure as above using the slots provided beneath the one you just filled in. The forms for Advanced Training are even simpler.

I implore you to help us out to prevent the aforementioned problems by reporting your hours at least by the end of each month. I appreciate your cooperation very much.

Thank you for all that you do for the Earth, for your neighbors, and for your chapter.

Tom. ✨

CHAPTER NEWS

Fourth of July Parade

Our Master Naturalists float and the Kazoo Marching Band made ours one of two entries with live music – the other being the Wimberley High School Band. We had a banner describing who we were – most didn't. Including the float and the band, we had a crowd of about 35 fabulous volunteer participants. What a GREAT crowd we had! Many people said we made a great showing, even the best showing of all entries.

We got our Master Naturalists in front of a lot of people, showed we are an active local organization and distributed information to a lot of new people. Tom Watson said a number of people came up to the float asking for chapter information.

Officially, we placed 4th in the Most Creative Category – after Touched By Angels, Chapel In The Hills and Brookshire Brothers. Other categories included Most Patriotic, Best Animal Entry, and Best Entry Under Age 12. The grand prize went to the Cub Scouts.

We have received informal inquiries about participating in festivities at Driftwood and Dripping Springs later this year. The consensus leans to staffing a booth and perhaps reviving the Kazoo

Marching Band and reinforcing it with a drum, but another float will have to wait until next year.

Our participation in the parade would not have been possible without the unsparing efforts of Marion Couvillion, who supplied the tractor and trailer for the float and did a huge amount of dirty work.

--- Susan Nenny. ✨

New TP&WD Representative

Lee Ann Linam met with the Board of Directors on July 13 to begin her service our representative from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Wimberley residents, Lee Ann and Gordon Linam are already well known to members who have taken the annual field trip to John Knox Ranch. Lee Ann is a 23-year veteran of TP&W who specializes in wildlife diversity programs and programs that use volunteers to gather data, including the Texas Amphibian Watch and Texas Mussel Watch.

Please join us in welcoming Lee Ann at the August 17 meeting. . ✨

Cibolo Nature Center Field Trip

I thought we had a good workshop even though my presentation ran long and it was very hot when we got in the field. I hope that everyone was able to take home a new idea or perspective on prairie ecology and or management. Also thanks to Tom Watson and the Hays County Chapter for organizing the workshop and bringing refreshments.

I also want to recognize Kelly Hale for her assistance; she did a great job! Kelly mentioned the grass ID workshop this coming fall, and several folks wanted details. The grass ID workshop will be held here at the Cibolo Nature Center on Oct 7th from 10 am to 12 noon. Those who are interested should call the Cibolo Nature Center at 830-249-4616 for information about costs and registration.

For other workshops at the Cibolo Nature Center, check the website at www.cibolo.org. A Cedar Management Workshop is also scheduled this fall. Please be aware that the website is in transition and that is one reason the events calendar is not completely up to date.

For those who are interested in participating in the Cibolo Nature Center's Wildlife Field Research, contact Suzanne Young at SuzannY2@aol.com

Rufus Stephens, Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, P.O. Box 1802, Boerne, TX 78006. Tel. 830-249-6887, office. Rufus.Stephens@tpwd.state.tx.us

Bamberger Ranch Field Trip

Thirteen Falcons, three Training Committee members, and seven guests made the annual field trip to Bamberger Ranch on July 22.

Joe Piazza pointed out the continuing effects of the drought on the property since last year. The ranch has changed its cattle-breeding program by removing the bison genetic component. The endangered antelope are thriving despite the drought because the grass they consume meets all their water needs.

We stopped by the constructed bat cave but did not enter it, out of respect for sleeping Mexican Freetail bats. This informative visit provided a useful prelude to our August 8 session on bats.

Coming soon to HCMN: Invaders of Texas

... a program to locate and report the invasive species of Texas plants.

An exciting volunteer opportunity is in the making to aid the LBJ Wildflower center, a consortium of nature and scientific organizations, and federal and state government agencies in locating and cataloging invasive species of plants.

This is an important nation-wide program because costs attributed to invasive species in the USA run into the billions of dollars. The statewide program, "Invaders of Texas," is part of the LBJWC's citizen scientist program that asks local volunteers to help with scientific research studies.

Volunteers search for species on a target list of invasive plants occurring in the vicinity. After locating invasive plants, the volunteer will record their GPS coordinates, digitally photograph the plants, and take other pertinent information for submission to a website where the identifications will be confirmed. Following confirmation of the identification, the data and photograph will be entered into a national database hosted by the USGS.

This seems to be a project designed for Master Naturalists who have come through our training

classes and understand diagnostic plant features sufficiently to take advanced training in identification of target species and reporting their occurrence. Once trained the volunteers will be asked to search for target species in their local area and to travel to specified sites for observations.

The LBJ Wildflower Center recently conducted a pilot program to iron out procedural wrinkles. HCMN's Delbert Bassett and Greg Carter were participants. LBJWC is now ready to decentralize the program by moving the coordination out to relevant organizations around the state. They have chosen MN chapters among others to train and coordinate local volunteers for the program. Your president, Tom Watson, attended the "Train the Trainers" session earlier this month to learn the program and to begin training volunteers in our Chapter. Tom will first train a couple of volunteers to assist him and adapt the program to our chapter's criteria. Tom will try to complete the initial training sequence in June and hold training sessions for volunteers in July or August.

For Central Texas, the targeted species include tree of heaven, Chinese tallow, Chinaberry, Chinese pistache, chaste tree, giant reed, Japanese ligustrum, castor bean, parasol tree, mimosa, Japanese honeysuckle, and kudzu.

Each training session will present information on how to identify these 12 invasive plants, how to collect field information and GPS coordinates, how to take close-up digital photos for confirmation, and how to report new findings via the Internet. Upon completion of the training, each volunteer will receive a certificate as a Citizen Scientist in Invasive Plant Detection. Your efforts in detecting and reporting invasive plants will help to expand our knowledge of where these invasive plants have become established throughout Texas. This is the first step in managing these unwanted invasive plants.

Please stay tuned for more news about a volunteer opportunity that fits every Hays County Master Naturalist. ✨

New Reporting Buttons

Please note two new buttons on the online report form for Volunteer Hours, <http://www.hcmn.org>.

The first button is for 2006 trainees and the second is for active members.

Please be sure to click the correct button so that your report will automatically forward to the correct HCMN officer.

Please send Judy Telford your monthly reports of Volunteer Hours and Advanced Training Hours on the first of the month.

You may also email your reports to Judy at records@haysmn.org or send them by US Mail to 2303 E. McCarty, San Marcos, TX 78666.

Your timely response helps the Board to monitor participation in Chapter activities and to plan future events that meet your interests. 🦋

CALENDAR

(The dragonfly logo 🦋 identifies official HCMN events)

🦋 August 3, 6:00 pm. **Site Visit.** Linda and Larry Calvert, Red Hawk Road

🦋 August 8. **2006 Class Session 11.** Wildlife (mammals and herpetology) and Habitat – Dr. Randy Simpson. Ch 14, Bats – Nyta and Craig Hensley, Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area

🦋 August 12, 10:00 am – noon. **Water Conservation for Central Texas.** La Ventana Clubhouse, Driftwood.

🦋 August 15, 6:00 pm. **Site Visit.** Tyler Carson

🦋 August 17. **Chapter Meeting.** White Wings Ranch.

🦋 September. 12. **2006 Class Session 12.** Prairies – Bob Lyons; Ch 11, Insects – Noel Troxclair

🦋 September. 23. **2006 Class Field Trip to Knox Ranch.** 9:00 am –12:00 noon. Fishes – Gordon Linam. Amphibians, Ch 12 & 13. Reptiles - Lee Ann Linam. Water Quality & Invertebrates – Cindy Contreras, Aquatic Plants – Dawnelle Malone

🦋 October 3. **2006 Class Session 13.** Livestock on Small Acreage – Dr. Rick Machem. Rev. Ch.19, Agricultural and Wildlife Tax Valuation – Kaybeth Williams

🦋 Oct. 24, **2006 Class Session 14.** Land Fragmentation – Dr. Neal Wilkins. Ch 20 & 21. Land Stewardship & Interpretation – Texas Master Naturalist Program Coordinator

🦋 November 7. **2006 Class Graduation** – Ch 2, Bryan Davis

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Project WILD Aquatic Training

TPWD is sponsoring a “Project WILD Aquatic” workshop at Westcave Preserve. The workshop will focus on how to teach aquatic resources and wildlife to school kids.

The training will introduce fun, hands-on, easy-to-use educational activities appropriate for education in our schools. The material is suitable for grades K – 12 and is aligned to the TEKS. Participants will receive 6 hours of SBEC and TEEAC credit if desired. Master Naturalists will earn Advanced Training credits. The number of AT hours depends on the length of the workshop.

This is a great opportunity for those interested in working with youth to take up educational outreach as a volunteer activity. Once trained, the Board of Directors and our Extension Agent will help you make connections with local schools of your choosing.

The workshop dates are to be announced soon. For further information please email john@westcave.org or phone (830)-825-3442.

Water Conservation for Central Texas

Texas in July is always hot and dry, but with the ongoing drought and with the slow Trinity Aquifer recharge, the Hays County Master Naturalists has decided to team together with the following groups to present a two-hour Advanced Training opportunity in Driftwood: San Marcos River Foundation Rainwater, National Wildlife Federation, Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, and Texas Water Development Board. Learn more about Xeriscape landscaping, rainwater collection and demo, and water conservation for the Hill Country.

Saturday, August 12, 10:00 am - noon at the La Ventana Clubhouse porch. Click for map (http://www.laventanadriftwood.com/images/ventana_map.gif.htm). La Ventana is located at 1501 Elder Hill Road (CR 170) in Driftwood. 🦋

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Planting Volunteers Needed for Green Roofs

The Wildflower Center's Green Roof research project is ready to get under way. The next step is to install 990 native plants in these test platforms. The test platforms are mock-up rooftops – each measuring 6ft x 5ft. The ones needing planting have a special growing medium in them that is only 4 inches deep. The platforms are waist high so planting does not require bending or stooping.

This is your opportunity to become part of this exciting research event. The project is scheduled to go on for at least five years. Throughout the years, we will be tracking the amount of water each unit needs to establish plants, how well the plants do, the temperature at all levels of the platform, amount and rates of run-off, and water quality. The platforms are located in what has been termed the Small Research Plot in the natural area off the John Barr Trail. It will be opened to the public once the plants are in. We intend to put the data we collect on the website. This information will also be used by schools for environmental education.

Planting is scheduled for:

TUESDAY – August 1, 8:30 – 12:30

WEDNESDAY – August 2, 8:30 – 12:30

THURSDAY – August 3, 8:30 – 12:30

Saturday can also be used for a volunteer day if that is the only day some of you can work. Please call me (Jeannine) at 292-4200 ext. 213 or e-mail me at: jtinsley@wildflower.org if you want to sign up.

Looking forward to working with you!

Margaret's Nature Trail, White Wings Ranch

HCMN PROJECT # 601

You may remember that last summer off RR12 near San Marcos a snake fatally bit a woman from Wimberley. It turns out that she was both a member of the Unity Church and very much a nature enthusiast. She bequeathed a small amount to the church for the creation of a nature trail on the 43 acres that is owned by the church. The money is to go for signage, a tri-fold brochure, interpretive material etc.

Pastor Mindy Audlin and her husband Shawn have made great headway in the actual layout and construction of the trail. Joe Piazza, myself and a few other Master Naturalists went for a visit and

were well impressed with the progress thus far. They have asked for our help to complete the construction of the trail and ID the plants along the route. They have also asked us to help in the design and writing of an interpretive tri-fold brochure about the trail and Hill Country ecosystems. We have talked about planting a native grass garden and a butterfly garden. Once the trail is complete, besides helping maintain it, we are to be available to give guided walks to interested folks.

Unity Church has learned from their insurance company that they can allow non-members access to the trail and they want to open it up to the public for educational and outreach programs. This would include school groups and scouting groups as well.

The area where the trail has been located is very diverse, going from grasslands dotted with various trees and forbs to a lovely riparian zone with the associated flora and fauna. Its length is about 1/2 mile, with spots to sit and enjoy views along the way.

-- Jamie Kinscherff, HCMN Contact;

Jamie@kinscherff.com ✨

Wildscape Garden, San Marcos Nature Center

HCMN PROJECT #405

Showers on July 4 were sufficient to keep Sunflowers, passion vines, blue mistflower, and tropical milkweed running wild. The passion vines support Gulf Fritillary larvae, and male adult Gulf Fritillaries are constantly searching for emerging females. Queens regularly haunt the blue mistflower. We observed a single 5th instar Monarch caterpillar on Tropical Milkweed on July 12. A luxurious stand of Frogfruit entices checkered skippers, a few Pearl and Texan Crescents, and Ceraunus Blues.

As usual, there's no stopping invasive dandelions, sow thistles, wild geranium, medicago, red henbit, bermudagrass, and similar plants. We have to pull up these aggressive invaders to control them.

We welcome contributions of seeds or seedlings of annual and perennial wildflowers to improve the diversity of our garden. ✨

Jacob's Well Nature Centre

HCMN PROJECT #603

HCMN Project Coordinator:

Tom Watson, president@hcmn.org
512-894-4822

Sponsor Contact: David Baker,
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association
P. O. Box 2534, Wimberley, TX 78676.
512-847-1582 512-847-1582

Starting date: 4/1/2006; end date: open

The first HCMN work Day at Jacob's Well was July 15.

Project Description: The project will be to help the Wimberley Valley Watershed Assoc. plan and restore the Jacob's Well surroundings to a natural condition using native plants, to conduct nature tours, to provide education classes at the completed nature center, to help with trail building, to plant native plants, etc.

Activity type: Habitat restoration, Restoration and Management planning, Direct outreach, Indirect outreach, Trail construction and maintenance, Data collection, Native plants maintenance

Comments: This will be a great opportunity to become associated with a nature center where we can apply our Master Naturalist training to benefit the public. 🦋

State News

Great Whining Cicada Watch

This cicada, perhaps the most unique in the Western Hemisphere, is being heard in the Austin - San Antonio area. Their ear-piercing whine is common from south Texas to Argentina, but its occurrence in central Texas is creating a bit of a stir among naturalists.

Giant Whining Cicada (Chicharra Grande), *Quesada gigas* (Olivier 1790), Family Cicadidae, Subfamily Cicadinae, Tribe Hyantini
<http://texasento.net/Cicada.htm> (links to U.S. county records, photos, etc.)

Here is a most interesting paper on the beast:

Davis W.T. 1944. The remarkable distribution of an American cicada: a new genus, and other cicada notes. *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* : 52, 213-223.
<http://buzz.ifas.ufl.edu/c700ld44.pdf>

This large file (2.5mb) takes a while to download. It might work better if you *save* the file to your computer rather than attempting to click on and *open* it.

-- Mike Quinn, Invertebrate Biologist, Wildlife Diversity, Texas Parks & Wildlife
Mail: 3000 I-35 South, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78704
telephone: 512-912-7059; cell: 512-577-0250
Email: mike.quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us
Texas Entomology, www.TexasEnto.net

Texas Monarch Watch

Status of the Population

I finished the "Status" section of the Update last month with the following statement. "The flow of monarchs through eastern Kansas in the second half of May this year has been the best I've observed since 2001." This flow continued northward resulting in the largest number of monarchs reported to Journey North in the last 10 days of May since record keeping of spring sightings began in 1997. These reports were followed by numerous accounts of large numbers of eggs and then larvae especially in areas north of 43N latitude. Monarchs subsequently spread through the milkweed regions of the prairie provinces of Canada in unusually large numbers. Many observers declared that the monarchs were early for their region. Perhaps the butterflies did arrive early but I will make the case below that, relative to other years, they arrived on time. The only region in which monarchs were slow to arrive and might be deemed scarce was the northeast including the Canadian provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Thanks to Don Davis's efforts and his many contacts in the provinces, there have been a number of reports of monarchs from eastern Canada for the last half of June. There is still time for monarchs to complete two generations in the northeast so low monarchs numbers now may not be a good indication of the fall migration in this region but, then again, it might well signal a low fall population.

By Chip Taylor. The complete web version of this update is available at:

<http://www.MonarchWatch.org/update/2006/0630.html#1>

Turtle Patrol

How exiting it was to be in the middle of the 1st Ridley sea turtle release for 2006, this morning! It took around 1.5 hours for 65 of the little critters to crawl to their first touch of the Gulf of Mexico. These turtles were from nest #3. Nests #s 1 and 2 haven't hatched out as of yet! There were approx. 70 people in front of Sunside III Condos at So. Padre Island including locals, tourists and release team to witness this incredible event. More nests should be hatching at any time day or night. More releases are planned as the Ridley's hatch. Contact Sea Turtle Inc. for more release info.

Being a part of the release team was such a thrilling experience as I actually got to hold one of the hatchlings for the first time and take it around for the crowd to see. I later took my usual job of diverting the gulls with bread several yards away as the turtles were released onto the sand. When 4 gulls flew overhead, I knew it was time for bread patrol. Dave Moulder, another RGVCTMN also assisted in the operation by keeping the crowd in their places away from the release corridor and documenting the event with photos. So far, South Padre Island & Boca Chica beaches have produced 17 nests. One more and the number will have doubled from the total nests recovered from those areas in 2005. In fact, the whole Texas Coast has surpassed the number of recovered nests from last year. Just this last Thursday, I was able to help recover 2 nests while on sea turtle patrol on the 4-wheeler. This was also a rewarding first for me because I have been volunteering since April. The recovery was due in large part from tips from a visitor from Fort Worth. I was able to assist in the excavation of one of the nests, taking measurements, filing paperwork and other duties involved in nest recovery.

Volunteer opportunities abound as more hatchlings are due. Lucy Guillen is asking for corral sitters. She will have all the information and details. Contact her at Sea Turtle Inc. 956.761.4511 or cell 210.7100256. You, too, can be a part of the action! If not this year, consider next year by taking the sea turtle training, ATV training, or walking patrol. As numbers increase for patrollers, more nests will be recovered and more turtles will have a better chance of survival!

-- Donna Berry, Rio Grande Valley Chapter TMN

New Endangered Species Web Application

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's Wildlife Division and the GIS Lab's Resource Information System Team has developed a new on-line application for accessing county level range information on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species. This allows users to obtain a list of rare species for a particular county or select a rare species and obtain a map of that species' potential range by county. The application was developed to help consultants, other government agencies, land managers, resource personnel, and individuals conserve rare species, but many others may also find it useful.

A link to the application can be found on the TPWD Web site
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/maps/gis/ris/endangered_species.phtml

Because potential range is generalized to the county level, these applications do not violate the confidentiality regulations regarding the location of endangered species on private lands. These applications were developed using federal State Wildlife Grant funds.

Local News

Water Issues Survey

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT'S SURVEY

Because of your experience as a resident of south-central Texas, I am asking for your participation in a study of how the general public learns, or hears, about issues related to water resources.

I am asking participants to answer a questionnaire that will take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

Your responses will be confidential. I hope that you will agree to participate in this study; your help and that of other participants is essential to the study's success. Please use this link to begin the survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=539442196389>.

Thank you for your participation.

Risk Communication Concerning Water Issues in South-central Texas

Karen Bartell, Ph.D. Candidate

512-894-0105, Days. Cell: 512-585-9396
R. Denise Blanchard, Ph.D. Department of
Geography and James and Marilyn Lovell Center for
Environmental Geography and Hazards Research
Texas State University – San Marcos. ✨

White-tailed Deer Harvest Project

Howdy!

My name is Jennifer Garrett and I am a graduate student in the Wildlife And Fisheries Sciences Department at Texas A&M University, and I need your help.

For my thesis project I have created a white-tailed deer harvest model for the use of interested landowners and land managers. The model incorporates field data that is currently available or easily collected.

Unlike other population models specific for white-tailed deer, my simulation model has an easy to use interface and is available on-line via the Internet. Users simply answer questions about the land they are managing and then evaluate different harvest plans to reach their management goals.

The next part of my project involves the evaluation of the simulation model and website. This is where I need your help.

Please visit my website and evaluate it for me. The website address is:
<http://deer.tamu.edu/deersim> .

To view the website you will need to create an account. I will use the e-mail address you provide to send you an invitation to participate in an online survey that will be used to evaluate my project.

As an incentive for filling out the survey we will be giving away a laser rangefinder, GPS unit, compass, and a Boone & Crockett scoring kit. The four lucky participants will be chosen by lottery.

Thank you in advance for your time. Your opinions will help us better the simulation model and website so that we may have a product that better serves you.

If you have any questions about this project please contact me at jennifer-n-garrett@tamu.edu.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Garrett

Wimberley Butterfly Watch

Hummingbirds continue to be more abundant in Wimberley than butterflies, with the exception of an

outbreak of American Snouts. These small brownish butterflies (*Libytheana carinenta*) returned on July 8 in lower numbers than their outbreak last November. Their numbers seem to be increasing. We don't yet know the full extent of the July outbreak, but it has lasted through July and we can confirm the presence of American Snouts from San Marcos to San Antonio. They appear to gather locally, almost in swarms, and flit around aimlessly. They feed on lantana flowers and, to a lesser extent, on flame sumac. Although hackberries are the larval hosts, the adults prefer to gather on walnut trees.

Other butterflies observed during July include Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, Pipevine Swallowtail, Black Swallowtail, Cloudless Sulphur, Orange Sulphur, Large Orange Sulphur, Little Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Dainty Sulphur, Lyside Sulphur, Gray Hairstreak, Juniper Hairstreak, Great Purple Hairstreak, Reakirt's Blue, Ceraunus Blue, Buckeye, Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Pearl Crescent, Texan Crescent, Tawny Emperor, Bordered Patch, Monarch, Queen, Question Mark, Tropical Leafwing, American Snout, Common Mestra, Carolina Satyr, Common Wood Nymph, Cloudywing Skipper, Juvenal's Duskywing, Horace's Duskywing, Checkered Skipper, Fiery Skipper, Dun Skipper, Sachem, Eufala Skipper, Ocola Skipper, and other little brown skippers.

One Monarch sighting occurred on July 9.

We have observed no Whites, but have observed near-white Lyside Sulphurs and white – phase female Cloudless Sulphurs and Orange Sulphurs.

If you saw something we missed, please email your editor@hcmn.org. ✨

Links to Chapter Sponsors and Partners

Sponsors:

Texas Master Naturalist - State Website - masternaturalist.tamu.edu

Texas Cooperative Extension – agextension.tamu.edu/
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – www.tpwd.state.tx.us/

Agencies of Interest:

Bamberger Ranch -- <http://www.bambergeranch.org/workshops.htm>

Native Plant Society of Texas – www.npsot.org/
San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance --
<http://www.smgreenbelt.org>.
San Marcos River Foundation –
<http://www.sanmarcosriver.org>.
Texas Outdoor Women’s Network -
<http://www.townsanmarcos.org/>
Texas Cooperative Extension – Sea Grant Program –
texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu/
Texas Forest Service – txforestservice.tamu.edu/
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers –
www.usace.army.mil/
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – www.fws.gov/
U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service –
.nracs.usda.gov/

Partners

Austin Nature Day --
<http://www.austinnatureday.org/>
LBJ Wildflower Center -- www.wildflower.org
San Marcos Nature Centre -- http://www.ci.san-marcos.tx.us/departments/parks/Nature_Center.html?menu=DP13