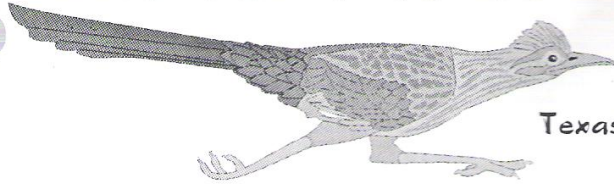


# MASTER NATURALISTS NEWS

## February, 2000



Texas Master Naturalists, Hays County Chapter

### HOT OFF THE PRESS

- State Committee of the Texas Master Naturalist™ Held Training outside Burton, Texas  
Camp For All, - Burton, Texas. The State Committee of the Texas Master Naturalist met at the new facilities of *Camp for All* just northeast of Burton, Texas on January 14-15, 2000. The purpose of the meeting was to provide training for the key personnel from groups wanting to start a chapter in their area. In addition to the State Committee, there were 21 folks representing TAEX, TPW, and volunteers from seven areas seeking to start or complete the process of becoming a chapter. The Dallas Chapter has just split into the North Texas Chapter and the about-to-be chartered Cross Timbers Chapter of Fort Worth. Other communities just starting the process were Arlington, Comal County, Galveston, Llano County, Port Aransas area, and the Rio Grande Valley. The interest in the program is spreading rapidly. By this time next year we should have double the number of chapters.

Some of the statistics about our statewide effort of just five chapters (Austin, Dallas, Hays, Houston, and San Antonio) is very impressive. With approximately 472 volunteers, we did over 22,600 hours of service to our communities, enhanced over 4000 acres of land, reached over 25,000 people and partnered with or helped 165 organizations. I think that is a very good showing for such a young organization. Let's all get to work and get our required 40 hours. Between Billy and member suggestions, there are a lot of great things to do. (from Delbert M. Basset)

The Board of Regents, during a meeting last week, have okayed an agreement between SWT and Texas Parks and Wildlife to begin construction on a River Center at Aquarena Springs. The Inn at the Springs will be renovated into offices and labs during phase 1 construction which will start immediately. An interpretative center and classrooms will be constructed during phase 2 on the current parking lot and swimming pool site at Aquarena.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- April 1, 2000 - Home and garden Show at San Marcos Activity Center  
Help is needed to set up a promotional and educational booth.
- April 19 - Decision Makers Water Conference to be in San Marcos  
We will need volunteers to help with registration and breaks.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

- Jill Nokes will speak to the Native Plant Society next thursday at 7:00 p.m. (FEB. 10th) at the Extension Office. She wrote the the book on Plant propagation and has written a new book. This would be good for advanced training.

### NEXT MASTER NATURALIST MEETING AND PROGRAM

- February 24 - Extension Office - 7:00 p.m. Dr. Brent Bossman from SWT whose field of expertise is on Central Texas Native American Archeology will present a slide program on 12,000 years of visitation to the headwaters of the San Marcos River. The program will count toward continuing education hours.

After the program we will have a very important organizational meeting and sign up for wildlife evaluation visit to the Hinson acreage. Refreshments will be served, but no dinner.

