

Hays County Master Naturalists NEWSLETTER



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

February, 2007

FEBRUARY EVENTS

February Chapter Meeting *Bluebirds in Texas*

Speaker: **Pauline Tom, President**
Texas Bluebird Society,
<http://www.texasbluebirdsociety.org>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Senior Room, Wimberley Community Center.

Catered dinner by Our Lady of the Lunch, 6:30 pm. Program at 7.00 pm. The cost of the meal is \$9.00 per person. Please contact Susan Nenny to make your Guaranteed reservations.



February Board Meeting

The Executive Board of Hays County Master Naturalists will meet at 7:00 pm, February 12 at 600 Red Hawk Road (4 mi east of Wimberley off RR-3237), the home of Winifred Simon.

Draft Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Officer reports
3. Housekeeping
 - HCMN participation at Earth Day (Wimberley Emily Ann Theatre/Butterfly Festival – April 2007.
 - Order of Training Manuals for Chapter members who wish to purchase a copy (not including Training Class)
4. First Chapter Meeting, 22 February
Date, Location, Program, Food
5. Discussion on Chapter Volunteer Projects
 - Focus
 - Revise project list?
 - Set up Volunteer Projects reviewer\committee?
6. Other Business

HAYS COUNTY MASTER NATURALISTS

Board of Directors

President	Dale Shively
Vice President	Dixie Camp
Secretary	Susan Nenny
Treasurer	Winifred Simon
Past-President	Tom Watson
State Representative	Tom Watson
Training Committee	Nancy Turner
Membership Committee	Judy Telford
Web Master	Herb Smith
Newsletter Committee & Editor	Richard Barnett 512-847-6941 news@haysmn.org
Outreach Committee	Walt Krudop
Host Committee	Jean McMeans
Historian	Laurel Robertson
Extension Agent	Bryan Davis
TP&WD Rep	Lee Ann Linam
OTHER:	
Web Master	Herb Smith

- Future Board meeting dates \ Calendar of events

7. Date of Next Board Meeting \ Location
8. Adjourn

As always, board meetings are open to chapter members. 

THE PRESIDENTIAL VIEW

On page 8 of this newsletter there is a report about Eileen Mattei of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists. She wrote an article for the February issue of TPWD Magazine describing how significant it is for her to be a Master Naturalist. Her article made me consider the same question: What does being a Master Naturalist mean to each of us? We all had a reason for wanting to become a member of this organization. While our reasons may differ, we still have many things in common.

Historically, naturalists were frontiersmen, pioneers, observers, interpreters, and teachers. They had backgrounds in botany, entomology, mammalogy, ichthyology, herpetology, geology,

and other disciplines. Some were self-taught; others had formal learning.

They understood and observed ecological concepts which were later applied to management of ecosystems. They communicated their knowledge to others through teaching, writing, and speaking. The more they learned, the more they realized that they did not know. The more answers they discovered, the more the questions that arose.

In Hays County, our chapter represents a wealth of knowledge about the natural environment. One of our roles is to share that knowledge with other community members who may not know or understand certain environmental issues. As Master Naturalists, we follow in the footsteps of those who came before us by honing our observation skills, gaining insights and spreading excitement about the natural world. And, like those historical trailblazers, we all realize that becoming a Master Naturalist is a journey rather than a destination. In the words of Michelle Haggerty, "...becoming a Master Naturalist is a goal that can only be approached, never attained. Naturalists work to gain the wisdom of those that came before them, to build on that knowledge, and teach those who will come after them."

In Eileen's words, "Becoming a Master Naturalist is one of the best decisions I've made." I hope you feel that it is one of your best decisions also and that you continue your volunteerism with the Hays County Chapter. Whether your contribution is working on a committee, participating in group projects, or talking with your neighbor about wildscapes, each of us has a duty to spread the knowledge we have gained. It is through this work that you, as an individual, gain knowledge and contribute to the Chapter and community as a whole. Whatever your level of participation, I encourage you to help the Chapter grow. Remember that "baby steps" count too.

I hope to see each of you at the Chapter meeting on February 22nd.

Dale ✨

CHAPTER NEWS

Abby Linam update - January 27

Sorry, no photo today. I didn't think that Abby dusting, helping pick up ice storm tree limbs, or doing homework would be that interesting as photo subjects, but it is good to report that she's doing those things! I did add a photo of Abby and Paquita on January 22, the day Paquita came home from staying with the Volinskys and their big bird up the hill...

Our other main activity today was watching Frank's basketball games. Let's just say that Gordon's boys are learning "character" this season. They just couldn't pull out a win in either game, but they all sure really play hard and have a good attitude. Abby did put in a little basketball practice today as well, along with Frank and Taylor S. It was good to visit with Taylor and Tracy Schaede...

Well, tomorrow we're going to try to make it to Sunday School and music team practice in New Braunfels--No more leisurely Sunday mornings, so I'd better get to bed!

Love,
Lee Ann, Gordon, Abby, & Frank Linam ✨

For latest information about Abby's progress, please check
<http://www.hillcountryschool.net/index.php>.

2007 Training Class

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEB 19, 2007
Applicants will be notified by Feb 23, 2007

Classes begin Tuesday, March 6, 2007
Ending date October 26, 2007

Cost:

Textbook: *Texas Master Naturalist*

Curriculum: \$ 30.000

Plus tuition, materials & meals \$ 118.00*

* The \$148 total is payable over 10 classes

Introductory class will be held **March 6, 2007**, from 6:00 to 9:30 pm, in the classroom at the Hays County Extension building, 1253 Civic Center Loop in San Marcos. Thereafter, formal classes will be held at the Wimberley Community Center, 14068 Ranch Road 12 in Wimberley.

Additional classes will be held in various locations in Hays County such as Knox Ranch,

Freeman Ranch, and Aquarena Center, as well as site visits to personal property.

Speakers are currently being scheduled for these tentative class dates:
March 6 and 20, April 3 and 24, May 8, June 5 and 26, July 17, August 14, October 2, and Friday, October 26.

Two of the required classes will be held on Saturday mornings: May 19 and September 15, 2007. In addition, the class will have unique opportunities for exclusive field trips to places such as Canyon Gorge. A detailed class schedule and program description will be provided at the first class.

Applications can be found in the Training section of the <http://haysmn.org> web page. Applications may be mailed or faxed to the Hays County Extension Office at the address above. Fax number: **512-393-2136**.

For additional information, contact Hays County Agent, Bryan Davis, 512-393-2136 or e-mail the Training Coordinator, Nancy Turner at trainingcom@haysmn.org.

Nancy Turner ✨

Committee Appointments

The Board of Directors made several committee appointments during its meeting on January 18. Tom Watson is our State Representative with Texas Master Naturalists. Walt Krudop continues to serve on the TMN State Advisory Committee under the direction of Michelle Haggerty, and is now the Chapter Outreach Committee Chair.

Laurel Robertson was appointed Chapter Historian. Jean McMeans was appointed Chair of the new Host Committee, which will handle arrangements for Chapter meetings. Richard Barnett chairs the Newsletter Committee in addition to serving as Editor. ✨

Melinda Gumbert Appointed to Woodcreek Council

The Woodcreek City Council has appointed Master Naturalist Melinda Gumbert to fill the remaining term of Henry Neale, who resigned his seat on the Council. Gumbert has been an active member of Woodcreek's Planning Commission and has a distinguished record of

civic and public service here in Wimberley and previously in Bellaire, Texas. ✨

Volunteers Needed for Committee Assignments

Judy Telford and Dixie Camp are looking for volunteers who would like to assist them in their Chapter Committee Assignments.

Judy is Chair of the Membership committee and deals with record keeping, database input, collecting volunteer hours, and reporting results to the Chapter Board.

Dixie, as VP, sets up the Chapter Programs for our bi-monthly meetings. She needs assistance in finding and coordinating speakers and working with the Host committee on arranging chapter meeting locations and accommodations.

If you would like to help on either of these committees to earn volunteer hours, please contact Judy, Dixie, or Susan Nenney. ✨

Reporting Reminder

Please email your reports of Volunteer Service hours and Advanced Training immediately to Judy Telford, preferably at recordscom@haysmn.org, or send them by USnail Mail to 2303 E. McCarty, San Marcos, TX 78666.

The final total of Volunteer Service hours for 2006, as reported to State headquarters, is 7600, compared to 4602 hours for 2005.

-- Judy Telford ✨

Annual Dues

Annual dues of \$12.00 are now payable. Please send your check payable to Hays County Master Naturalists c/o Winifred Simon, Treasurer. 600 Red Hawk Rd, Wimberley, TX 78676. ✨

✨ ✨ ✨

CALENDAR

(The dragonfly logo ✨ identifies official HCMN events)

February 2 to 4. **Birds of a Feather.** Texas Master Naturalist 2007 Campout at Brazos Bend State Park, Needville, Texas. More info below. Qualifies for Advanced Training Credit.

February 10, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. **Texas River Watch River Monitoring Training**

For info and registration, please contact email Carissa Belsky (belsky@txstate.edu). Sign up now for this popular training. After all this rain, there'll be some river water to watch.

The minimum number of students required to attend the class is 12. Thirteen people in last year's class signed up for the river monitoring training, which usually is held on the Texas State University campus in San Marcos. Carissa will let you know whether or not the class makes.

Qualifies for Advanced Training Credit.

✧ February 12, **Board of Directors Meeting**, 600 Red Hawk Road, Wimberley.

February 16-19, **the Great Backyard Bird Count.** More info below.

✧ February 22, **Chapter Meeting**, Wimberley Community Center. Catered Dinner, 6:30 pm; program, 7:00 pm.

✧ March 6, **2007 Training Class**, Introductory session. 6:00 to 9:30 pm. Classroom of Hays County Extension building, 1253 Civic Center Loop, San Marcos.

March 6-8: Managing Roadsides Naturally. LBJ Wildflower Center, Austin. For more info, please contact <http://www.wildflower.org/?nd=2154>



ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Birds of a Feather

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 2007
CAMPOUT
FEBRUARY 2-4, 2007, AT BRAZOS BEND
STATE PARK

Advanced Training Opportunities include:

- **Birds** by Dennis Jones, Assistant Park Director, Brazos Bend State Park

- **Spring Migration** by Scott Keister, Texas Master Naturalist and educator
- **Raptors: Bringing in the Hawks** by Dick Benoit, President, Galveston Bay Master Naturalists

Pre-registration is required. Registration is limited to first-come/first-served. Spouses are welcome. No pets. \$25 per person for Saturday only (no camping); or \$40 for overnight Friday and Saturday in the Dining Hall. For more information and reservations, please contact Sarah Smith Sarahbethsmith1@aol.com or Becky Bailey at (281) 320-8443.

Qualifies for Advanced Training Credit.

WILDFIRE THREAT MITIGATION

Starting February 13th, the Texas Forest Service will begin a Citizen Wildfire Ecology Specialist certification program for Hill Country residents. Participants will learn about wildfire, its history and behavior. They will also learn how to reduce the threat of wildfire to their homes or other property by using landscaping and other techniques. A property can be better prepared to withstand a wildfire and still be very attractively landscaped.

The course includes an Individual Special Project (7 hours) on a topic selected by each trainee on some aspect of wildfire-preparedness or how this information could be shared with the public. Trainees who complete all of these requirements will be certified for one year to teach these topics on behalf of TFS. A shorter refresher course can extend the certification in future years.

The Texas Forest Service provides many educational and informational opportunities to Texas residents through its Urban Wildland Interface (UWI) program. The Citizen Wildfire Ecology Specialist class is one of its newest.

Rich Gray, UWI Coordinator, said, "This class is appropriate for all persons with an interest in the environment, but particularly property owners who live in wooded areas. As more people move into rural woodland areas, wildfire becomes a greater risk to property and to life." The course will be taught by professionals from Texas Forest Service and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

Classes will be held at the Gillespie County

Cooperative Extension office in Fredericksburg on February 13 and 14, with a daylong field trip on February 27. Registration is \$50, payable to the Texas Forest Service. Class size is limited to 30 trainees. This class is hosted locally by the Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists. To register for this program or for more information, please call Priscilla Stanley at 830-257-2094; email jbstan@ktc.com



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Great Backyard Bird Count **New HCMN Volunteer Project #701**

FEBRUARY 16-19, 2007

Get ready to "Count for the Record!"

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 16-19, 2007. Sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon, this annual four-day event engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3, 4!

- 1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes during February 16-19, 2007.** Count birds at as many places and on as many days as you like; it doesn't have to be in your backyard—just keep a separate list of counts for each day and/or location.
- 2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time, and write it down.**
- 3. Enter your results on the [Great Backyard Bird Count web site!](#)**
- *4. Turn your hours in to HCMN - Project 701.**

Participants who want to hone their bird watching skills can learn more from the Great Backyard Bird Count web site, which offers identification tips and access to photos, sounds, maps, and natural history information on more than 500 bird species. Other resources helpful are the pocket size Sibley's *Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* (or Western NA - Texas is in both) or Kaufman's *Birds of North America*.

Don't forget the Hays County Bird Checklist which homes in on birds by season. (Available for \$1.00; PO Box 398, Wimberley, TX 78676) Or team up with a friend.

For beginners, looking up a few of our most common birds ahead of time may be helpful.

Start here for more information about the event: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>; Click on "What is the GBBC" or "How to Participate" for details.

Remember: count one bird, learn one bird, and you are off to a new adventure. "We often fail to notice how rich our surroundings are, but counting birds, even for just 15 minutes, is not only educational—it can provide a lasting source of enjoyment, turning a daily walk into a treasure hunt." GBBC

CONTACT: Ginger Geist

Texas Parks & Wildlife *Coastal Expo*

FEBRUARY 22ND- 24TH IN EDINBURG
MARCH 8TH- 10TH IN MARBLE FALLS

Do you remember catching your first fish? What about the first time you reached out and touched a starfish? Remember how it felt to walk barefoot in the sand exploring all the goodies washed up on the beach? Do you enjoy teaching children about conservation and outdoor recreation?

If these questions bring a smile to your face, Coastal Expo wants you! We are looking for people to volunteer their time, talent, and skills to promote Texas's aquatic and coastal ecosystems to families in the Edinburg and Marble Falls areas, while enriching their lives with new experiences they will never forget.

Would you like to volunteer and have no experience? No problem! We can train you in 15 minutes. Each volunteer will receive a free Coastal Expo T-shirt. For more information, please contact Kris Shipman Coastal Expo Coordinator, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., 3000 S. IH 35, Suite 320, Austin, TX 78704; 512-912-7037, 512-912-7037, or kris.shipman@tpwd.state.tx.us.

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/conservation/coastalexpo/images/celogo.jpg>

Blue Hole Project Proposal

Sponsor: Wimberley Parks & Recreation Board; 512-847-1231

Contact: Dell Hood, hood@alumni.utexas.net

Activity: Removing non-native plants from Blue Hole Regional Park, Wimberley

Starting date: August 1, 2006

End date: indefinite

Activity type: Habitat restoration

Description:

Blue Hole Regional Park, Wimberley, is owned by the Village of Wimberley. Large areas of the park are planned to remain natural and undeveloped. Non-native plants will be removed wherever possible in order to ensure the best possible diversity of Central Texas native plant species and to improve habitat for native fauna.

Comments:

Our immediate priority is removing an invasive plant, Asian marshweed (*Limnophila sessiliflora*), from Cypress Creek in the area of the riffles immediately downstream from the swimming area of Blue Hole. Minette Marr will give instruction on the procedure for removing the plant so as to prevent its further spread.

The initial project complements the Invader program to remove invasive species. Next year, we may work on trails or plan and plant habitat. After that, the park will need docents. ✂

Wildscape Garden, San Marcos Nature Center

HCMN PROJECT #405

Ice and light freezes during January stimulated the growth of bluebonnet seedlings. Competing hedge parsley and sow thistles have also thrived on regular rainfall and require frequent control. The Nature Center has such a variety of sow thistles that it could easily serve as a sow thistle lab for anyone who wants to study them for some obscure reason. Red henbit and black medicago are also flourishing.

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

CONTACT: Richard Barnett,
news@haysmn.org.

Jacob's Well Nature Centre

HCMN PROJECT #603

HCMN Project Coordinator:

Marion Couvillion, marion@hcmn.org
512-858-1609

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, 2006.

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

Tree Folks Project Proposal

HCMN PROJECT # 605

NAME OF ACTIVITY OR EVENT: Habitat Restoration; Planting Trees with Tree Folks

STARTING DATE: January 1, 2006.

ENDING DATE: to be determined

TYPE OF ACTIVITY:

TreeFolks restores the urban forest of Central Texas through tree planting, education and community partnerships. They invite businesses, schools, government, community groups and individuals to join in creating a healthier environment and enhancing the quality of urban life. Since its inception in 1989, TreeFolks has planted tens of thousands of trees in Austin and Central Texas at schools, Retirement homes, Housing Projects, Parks, Green Spaces, Rights of Way and Medians, Neighborhoods, Preserves, Green Belts

SPONSOR: Tree Folks; PO Box 704; Austin, Texas 78767. TreeFolks, Inc. is a 501C3 non-profit corporation.

NAME OF CONTACT: **Scott Harris, Executive Director;** 512-443-LEAF, admin@treefolks.org

HCMN CONTACT: **Marion Couvillion,** 512-858-1609; PO Box 872; Dripping Springs, TX; marion.hcmn@gmail.com

HCMN COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THIS PROJECT: volunteers needed

Project Description:

Tree Folks sponsors several environmental projects:

City Shade is a large scale, high-impact and highly organized planting program for public parks and other public lands. This program gives citizens opportunities to participate in public tree plantings to improve their communities.

CommuniTrees is a dynamic and effective grant program that offers trees to eligible individuals or groups planning tree planting projects on publicly accessible land. Since 1992, CommuniTrees has provided trees to dozens of schools and institutions as well as educational programs and materials for participants and expertise for the long term care of the trees.

TreeFolks provides education through speakers, fun, organized workshops and expertly crafted and beautifully illustrated publications that greatly expand our service beyond simply planting trees.

Every October TreeFolks hosts Sapling Days, distributing seedlings every week in October.

The Urban Orchard Project places fruit and nut trees in public spaces. Program participants take part in a training program that teaches them the basics of organic fruit and nut tree care, pruning and harvesting techniques. The **NeighborWoods** Program is designed to plant trees to save energy and to combat the Heat Island Effect. Temperatures in urban centers are 6-15 degrees hotter than the surrounding countryside. Planting trees in positions to shade pavement is a highly effective and economical way to combat that effect. Every year, with sponsorship and support from Austin Energy, TreeFolks places over 4000 of these "street trees." ✨

Nature Conservancy Project Proposal

HCMN PROJECT #606

STARTING DATE: 9/1/2006

ENDING DATE:

TYPE OF ACTIVITY: Environmental conservation and education.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

NAME OF GROUP: The Nature Conservancy

M.N. CONTACT: Rick Norwood, 830-693-5901; rnorwood@tstar.net

M. N. COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THIS PROJECT: none at this time. ✨



State News

Texas: the State of Springs

FEBRUARY 15 TV WATER DOCUMENTARY

The latest video documentary from TPWD about water resources, "Texas: the State of Springs," is in final post production and will air at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15 on all Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) stations in the state.

The one-hour TV program is part of a broader TPWD public information initiative that began with a special water resource issue of **Texas Parks & Wildlife** magazine in July 2002 that has become an annual special issue every July since. The initiative also includes radio, Internet and other educational components.

Broadcast news legend Walter Cronkite has again lent his distinctive voice to this latest project, as he did for TPWD's last water resource TV documentary "Texas: the State of Water-Finding A Balance" in 2005.

This year's documentary will examine the historical decline of springs across the state and explore current groundwater and land use issues that impact spring flow. It will look at how groundwater pumping and water marketing in rural areas can affect springs, along with how proper land management can enhance and even restore spring flow. It will show how conservation easements and land acquisitions are used to protect key elements of watersheds. It concludes with how urban homeowners can have a positive impact and dramatically reduce their water bills through native plant landscaping and other water conservation measures.

The 2007 documentary is made possible in part thanks to sponsors Shell Oil Company, The Partnership Foundation, Lower Colorado River Authority and Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

Interested parties should be able to watch a video preview of the documentary on the State of Water Web site (<http://www.texasstateofwater.org>).

J. Dale Shively

Artificial Reef Coordinator
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



Master Naturalist in the News

Eileen Mattei of Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists has a 6-page feature article about the Texas Master Naturalist program in the February 2007 issue of the ***Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine!***

"Masters of Nature", appears on page 34 through 39 of the February issue.

Other Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers are pictured in the feature article, plus numerous instructors and Rio Grande Valley Chapter members.

The article is written as a synopsis of Eileen's first year in the Texas Master Naturalist program. Her sort-of-journal describes her training, advanced training and volunteer projects during her journey to date.

Eileen concludes, "Becoming a Master Naturalist is one of the best decisions I've made. The opportunity to work with enthusiastic, knowledgeable people while helping out Mother Nature is priceless."

Invasive Cactus Moth Threat

The Nature Conservancy Web site currently features an article asking Texans to keep an eye out for cactus moth caterpillars.

The article reports that the prickly pear is under attack by the invasive, non-native cactus moth whose orange-and-black caterpillars devour the cactus if left unchecked. "Since its arrival in Florida in 1989, the cactus moth (its scientific name is *Cactoblastis cactorum*) has eaten its way up the Atlantic coast to South Carolina and across the Gulf coast to Alabama. Scientists fear it could devastate the prickly pear cactus of Mexico and the Southwest, and at the rate it's traveling, it may reach Texas in

2008...with potential devastating effects on wildlife habitat and rural economies."

"Landowners in Texas are encouraged to keep an eye out for prickly pear that look brown, hollow, transparent and/or riddled with holes. Suspicious pads can be broken open to reveal the brightly colored caterpillars. Those who believe they have seen the caterpillars are asked to contact Barron Rector, Ph.D., with Texas Cooperative Extension, at brector@ag.tamu.edu or (979) 845-2755." <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/texas/press/press2767.html>

Of course you should steer clear of prickly pear out on the trail. But if you accidentally come into contact with one, here are some things to remember as you remove those painful barbs from your thigh.

Prickly pear provide:

- Soil stability by reducing erosion;
 - Food and habitat for birds and animals and protection from predators;
 - Food for cattle during times of drought;
 - An ornamental and landscaping plant;
- and

- Last but not least, food for people:

Nopals are a vegetable made from the young stem segments of prickly pear and are widely used in Mexican cuisine. "Nopals are very rich in insoluble and especially soluble dietary fiber. They are also rich in vitamins (especially vitamin A, vitamin C, and vitamin K, but also riboflavin and vitamin B6) and minerals (especially magnesium, potassium, and manganese, but also iron and copper)."

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opuntia>

Tuna is the fruit of the prickly pear used to make jams and jellies. A study "found that the fibrous pectin in the fruit may lower diabetics' need for insulin. Both fruits and pads of the prickly pear cactus are rich in slowly absorbed soluble fibers that help keep blood sugar stable."

http://www.desertusa.com/magoct97/oct_pa/du_prkpear.html

--SMGA **KIOSK**



Local News

Wimberley Butterfly Watch

Butterflies observed in and around Wimberley during January include Dainty

Sulphur, Little Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Lyside Sulphur, Southern Dogface, Gray Hairstreak, Painted Lady, American Lady, Red Admiral, Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Buckeye, American Snout, Queen, Checkered Skipper, and Sagem.

The Southern Dogface and Queen were single specimens observed early in January. They must have been late survivors from the fall. Wet and cool weather have eliminated the last purple lantanas to survive December freezes, leaving little or nothing to attract stray butterflies. Agarita bushes have tiny buds, however, and they should soon be inviting hairstreaks and skippers.

If you spotted something we missed, please email your editor at news@haysmn.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.bambergerranch.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 –

nrcs.usda.gov/

Partners

Austin Nature Day --

<http://www.austinnatureday.org/>

LBJ Wildflower Center -- <http://www.wildflower.org>

San Marcos Nature Centre -- http://www.ci.san-marcos.tx.us/departments/parks/Nature_Center.html?menu=DP13