

Hays County Master Naturalists NEWSLETTER



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

January, 2008

JANUARY EVENTS

Executive Board Meeting

The HCMN Board will meet 3:00 pm Sunday, January 20, at the home of Susan Nenny, 820 Red Hawk Road, Wimberley.

Our first 2008 Chapter Meeting will be in February. Watch for a notice.

THE PRESIDENTIAL VIEW

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season and is ready to begin a new *naturalist* year. I am personally looking forward to some great Chapter meetings and outings. As the new board begins meeting and planning activities for 2008, I am inviting each of you to participate and either attend in person or send me your comments on any Chapter issue.

This year's focus will be on Chapter projects and how to create more outreach events to spread knowledge about nature and its management to local communities. We have several important projects "on the books" and still need a few good folks to lead and plan them. In fact, I have received two more project ideas in the first week of January!

Other items that will be addressed this year include a correlated history of the Chapter that will be published on the Hays County Master Naturalist website, updated By-Laws, and a listing of current award winners. In addition, this year marks the 10th anniversary of our Chapter and I am sure many of you will participate in activities that will mark that event at some time during the year.

Speaking for all the Board members, I thank you for your continued support and will see you at the next Chapter meeting, if not sooner.

Dale ✨

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	Jean McMeans
Membership Committee	Judy Telford, interim
Web Master	Herb Smith
Newsletter Committee & Editor	Richard Barnett 512-847-6941 news@haysmn.org
Outreach Committee	vacant
Host Committee	vacant
Historian	vacant
Extension Agent	Bryan Davis
TP&WD Rep	Lee Ann Linam
OTHER: Web Master	Herb Smith

Training Committee Fills 2008 Positions

Jean McMeans, Training Committee Chair, reports that the principal positions on the 2008 Training Committee are now filled.

If you are interested in assisting the committee in any way, please send the following information to the Secretary and/or to Jean McMeans directly at jcheath42@msn.com.

Information requested from you includes:

- Volunteer opportunity desired
- Name
- E-mail address
- Phone number(s)
- Skills, knowledge, and interests you would bring to the position
- Your Chapter Volunteer activities for 2007

**1.1 Chair \ Coordinator of Training
Committee – Jean McMeans**

1.2 Vice-Chair \ Assistant-Coordinator of Training Committee – Larry Calvert

1.3 Registration and Attendance: -- Nancy Turner and Leah Laszewski

1.4 Program:

1.4.1 Nature Watch Coordinator – Karen Archer

1.4.2 Logistics & Documentation: (videography) – Nick Burkhalter

1.5 Field Trip and Site Visit Coordinator – Jamie Kinscherff and Mimi Boelter

1.6 Secretary – Sandy Lucas

1.7 Speaker’s Contact (includes logistics, gifts and evaluation) – Marianne Reese

2.0 AD HOC TRAINING COMMITTEES:

The Training Committee shall have ad hoc committees established by the Chair as determined necessary to fulfill the needs of the Training Class. Two such committees should include:

2.1 Meals: supported by Chapter’s Host Standing Committee – Sarah Holland

2.2 Graduation: (Chair and volunteers as needed)

- Arrange for graduation speaker
- Arrange for location
- Arrange for food (caterer) and associated needs
- Order, size, pick up and pay for shirts
- Obtain Certificates, State and County, and Dragonfly pins
- Order and pay for name tags
- Arrange for any extra event/activity if applicable
- Coordinate efforts with Chapter representatives

2.3 Other: Volunteers as needed and determined by Chair and Vice-Chair

HCMN Picture Trail

Walt Krudop has launched a new web site for displaying photography of HCMN activities and projects.

To VIEW photos on the site, just click on <http://www.PictureTrail.com/hayscntymn>. You

can view all the photos but cannot edit or change anything. Anyone who knows the web address can access this.

The simple instructions to upload photos are:

- 1) Go to <http://www.picturetrail.com>
- 2) Then click on Member Login.
- 3) Once you log in, click on "Upload Pics".

The detailed but pretty straightforward instructions showing screenshots for each step is shown in the attached instruction document. For the Member Login, please check with Walt.



Annual Dues Time!

It's that time of year. Send in your HCMN Dues for 2008 now and get the year started off on the right note. Mail your check for \$15.00 (we've had a slight increase) made out to Hays County Master Naturalist to: Winifred Simon, 600 Red Hawk Road, Wimberley, TX 78676.

Reporting Reminder

Reports for December 2007 are due by January 7. Please email your reports of Volunteer Service hours and Advanced Training immediately to Judy Telford, preferably at recordscom@haysmn.org, or send them by USmail Mail to 2303 E. McCarty, San Marcos, TX 78666.

-- Judy Telford



CALENDAR

(The dragonfly logo identifies official HCMN events)

January 9, 2008: **Beekeeping Classes** start at San Marcos Public Library. More info below.

January 10: **Aquifer Recovery Implementation Plan** (RIP) meeting, San Marcos Activity Center, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

January 19: **“Healthy Water Healthy People” Teacher Training**. More info below.

January 20: **Tree Planting at Onion Creek**. More info below.

✧ January 20: **Executive Board Meeting**, 3:00 pm, at the home of Susan Nenney, 820 Red Hawk Road, Wimberley.

February 23: **Sea Turtle Saturday 2008**, Houston Zoo. For more info or to learn how you can help Save the Sea Turtles, please contact Tracie Teague, 979-709-6699, ibteague@yahoo.com



ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Beekeeping Classes

San Marcos Area Bee Wranglers presents a free 4-session Beekeeping class at the San Marcos Public Library from 7:00 to 9pm on the following Wednesdays; January 9, 16, and 30, and February 6. The San Marcos Library is located at 625 E Hopkins Street.

The Library is again sponsoring these classes. This year they have offered to do all the registration for the class. Anyone interested in signing up for these classes should call the Library at 512-393-8200.

For specific information on the class, contact Denise or Bob Benson at: denisebenson@grandecom.net 512-396-5573 or 396-5572

Healthy Water, Healthy People

The San Antonio Water System will present a "Healthy Water, Healthy People" Teacher Training session on Saturday January 19, 2008.

Healthy Water, Healthy People is an innovative water quality education program sponsored by Project Wet and the Hach Scientific Foundation.

This workshop is designed for anyone interested in learning and teaching about contemporary water quality education topics. The 6-hour workshop is FREE and each participant will receive a 220 page Water Quality Educators Guide and training on water quality testing equipment.

Teachers will also receive 6 hours of CPE credit. This is the first time Healthy Water, Healthy People has been offered in our region.

The workshop will be conducted by John Etgen, Senior Vice President of the Project WET Foundation.

To register, call Lynne Christopher, Education Specialist, San Antonio Water System, 2800 Hwy 281 North, San Antonio, TX 78212, 210-233-3626.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Tree Planting at Onion Creek

DECEMBER 20, 9:00AM TO 12:30 OR 1:30 TO 5:00 PM.

Two shifts, choose one or both.

Location: Onion Creek tract of Austin Water Quality Lands in central Hays County between Buda and Driftwood on FM 967. Directions will be sent upon registration.

Description: Help restore a riparian woodland along Onion Creek. We have close to 250 trees that need to be planted. For more information and to volunteer contact daniel.dietz@ci.austin.tx.us or call 512-263-6443. ✧

Birding Contest for Schools

The National Biodiversity Parks (NBP) has recently launched the National Schoolyard Birding Challenge. The event is part of the NBP's Fledging Birders Program. The contest has been designed to promote awareness of local bird life for youth through the use of an interactive format.

The Challenge is a monthly birding contest open to students in all public and private schools in the contiguous United States. Student participants will work together to observe, identify, and record various species found on their school grounds. The main objective is to get more young people outside and exploring nature through a birding portal.

Sharing birds with youth is an invaluable service to the birding community, and, hopefully, an investment for the future of birds in North America.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.fledgingbirders.org/challenge.html>

Wildscape Garden, San Marcos Nature Center

HCMN PROJECT #405

Light frosts ended the flowering of the lantanas and other late bloomers. Next spring's wildflowers are sprouting, and so are chickweed, red henbit, and other opportunists.

Sow thistles, black medicago, and pecan and elm seedlings thrive regardless of regular weeding and a dry winter.

We welcome contributions of seeds or seedlings of annual and perennial wildflowers to improve the diversity of our garden. Indian paintbrush, phlox, larkspur, Zexmenia, gayfeathers, standing cypress, and even Texas prickly poppy would be welcome, but we have not been able to grow them from seed.



CONTACT: Richard Barnett,
news@haysmn.org.



State News

Carter Smith Named TPWD Executive Director

Carter Smith was named executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on December 5 at a special meeting of the TPW Commission in San Antonio. Smith will leave the helm at The Nature Conservancy of Texas to take the top job at TPWD.

"Carter Smith is a well-respected conservationist and has proven his ability to develop successful partnerships with landowners and others," said TPW Commission Chairman Peter Holt. "He is a hunter and angler and a seventh generation Texas landowner. He understands the conservation challenges we face in our rapidly growing and changing state and will provide a fresh perspective as we strive to meet our mission."

The Commission took action to accept the recommendation of the search committee in a public meeting after discussing the issue in executive session. The search committee consisted of TPW Commission Chairman Peter Holt, Chairman Emeritus Lee Bass, Vice Chairman Dan Friedkin, Commissioner Mark Bivins, and former Chairman Joseph Fitzsimons.

Smith has been with The Nature Conservancy of Texas since 1998 and has been the state director

since 2004. Prior to his promotion to state director, Smith served as Director of Conservation Programs where he was responsible for conservation, external affairs and science programs. Before working at the Nature Conservancy, he was the first executive director of the Katy Prairie Conservancy and continues to serve on their Advisory Board.

Smith is a native of Central Texas and began his career in 1992 at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a management intern, assisting in the Private Lands and Public Hunting programs. He has a wildlife management degree from Texas Tech and a master's degree in conservation biology from Yale University.

Smith has served on numerous science, conservation, land trust and advisory councils. Besides the Katy Prairie Conservancy, he has served on the Texas Land Trust Council and advisory boards for Texas Tech, Texas A&M and Texas State University. Most recently, he served on TPWD's State Parks Advisory Committee.

"I am deeply honored to accept this new challenge," said Smith. "I was very fortunate to begin my professional career at Texas Parks and Wildlife, and have had much contact with the professionals at the agency through the years. I look forward to working with people I admire and respect to further TPWD's conservation mission."

Texas Parks and Wildlife is the state agency responsible for managing and conserving Texas' natural and cultural resources. The agency has an annual budget of \$405.8 million and a full-time equivalent staff of about 3,100 in 11 internal divisions: Wildlife, Coastal Fisheries, Inland Fisheries, Law Enforcement, State Parks, Infrastructure, Communications, Administrative Resources, Information Technology, Human Resources and Legal.

Smith replaces Robert L. Cook, who retired on August 31, 2007. Cook has been executive director since February 2002 and is serving as interim executive director until Smith takes over in late January. – TPWD Press Release.

Texas Monarch Watch Butterfly tracked a long way from home

To the untrained eye, a butterfly is a butterfly. But this isn't true of Tom Collins, a Kerr County resident and Texas Master Naturalist.

One particular butterfly caught his eye while Collins was documenting species for a fauna census at the Riverside Nature Center last month. He snapped several shots of the

unique butterfly and later learned it was a Variegated Skipper--a butterfly that was far from home.

The Variegated Skipper is found in Argentina, throughout Central America, and Mexico.

It is unknown how the butterfly made its way to Kerrville, Collins said. "Perhaps it hitched its way in a cargo truck carrying goods from the Valley," he said. "It would be difficult to believe this small butterfly with a weak flight could have flown all the way up here. But we will never know."

With a wing span of 2.4 to 2.7 centimeters, the small brown butterfly is no larger than a Cowpen Daisy flower head. "Its wings were somewhat worn, but that is not uncommon for any butterfly as that is how they age," he said.

It probably stayed in the area as there were flowers still in bloom and it would need nectar to survive.

Collins submitted his find to Butterflies and Moths of North America, which maps and details species of butterflies.

The Variegated Skipper was a new county record for Kerr County. "Even in the Rio Grande Valley, the Variegated Skipper is considered a 'tropical stray' with just a handful of records," Collins said. "This will be the farthest east record for this butterfly."

Mike Quinn, an invertebrate biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Terry Doyle of the Texas Lepidopterist Society identified the butterfly as a Variegated Skipper. "The heavy rainfall across Texas earlier this year is probably the main reason that we are seeing a number of stray butterfly species in the Hill Country," Quinn said. "The fall is typically when most butterfly species stray north from Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley."

One of the most important yet unanswered questions concerning the Variegated Skipper throughout its range is what plant or plants does its caterpillars feed on.

But the Variegated Skipper was not the only new record for Kerr County since October 2006--in fact, it was one of three.

A White Peacock was found in October 2006 and the most recent was a Mimosa Yellow found on Nov. 29.

"The White Peacock and Mimosa Yellow each have been found in adjoining counties, while the Variegated Skipper has only been seen once away from the Rio Grande Valley immediate area," Collins said.

By Alyson Chapman, *The Daily Times*, Kerrville, December 15, 2007

More Hays County Acreage for Water Quality Protection

The *Austin American-Statesman* reports that a project by the Nature Conservancy and the City of Austin that would preserve over 3,000 acres of land in Hays County near over the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone near RM 967. If the Nature Conservancy and the landowner agree on terms, the land could become part of more than 8,400 contiguous acres running from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to Onion Creek Preserve near RM 150 near Kyle, all to be connected by a trail. Recognizing the importance of protecting land now, the City of Austin has protected over 20,000 acres of open space since 1998. Map and more info at

<http://www.statesman.com/search/content/new/stories/local/12/14/1214openspace.html>

Electronics Recycling

At its December 5 public hearing, the state environmental agency took a good first step toward convenient, responsible recycling for Texas e-waste.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has proposed guidelines to implement legislation passed this year requiring electronics producers to provide recycling programs for consumers in Texas.

Environmental advocates, local government leaders and electronics recyclers have argued that the proposed rules do not do enough to ensure the programs will be convenient for residents and provide responsible recycling.

The three TCEQ Commissioners voted to invite broad comments so that they can consider alternatives that would strengthen the proposed guidelines, which are weak.

A number of Texas Campaign for the Environment staff and the Hays County Recycling Coordinator Jerry Pinnix made extensive comments at yesterday's hearing. Recycling advocates presented an over-sized "holiday wish list" and an environmental Santa Claus delivered more than 1,500 letters from concerned residents. The Commissioners have received over 3,000 letters so far from concerned Texas residents.

"In my four years on the Commission, this is the most letters I've received on any issue,

ever," said TCEQ Commissioner Larry Soward. Soward also commented that this outpouring is indicative of a broad public concern that we could be doing much better on recycling more generally.

We appreciate your support and participation so far on this issue! Our efforts are obviously making an impact. We will be working hard to put forth good comments and alternative language so that there is more accountability and a truly convenient and environmentally responsible recycling system in place that we can build on in years to come. Expect to hear from us on the ways you can stay involved.

The official public comment period begins on December 21, and there will be another public hearing on January 14. The final adoption of guidelines will be on April 28th.

Zac Trahan, Texas Campaign for the Environment. 512-326-5655
zac@texasenvironment.org

Environment Texas at Work

Environment Texas worked to deliver a number of important victories for our environment and health in 2007. Here are highlights:

Christmas Mountains

On Nov. 6, the School Land Board voted to postpone the sale of the Christmas Mountains to private interests and instead give the National Park Service time to develop a proposal to add the land to Big Bend National Park.

The vote came after Environment Texas led an enormous public outcry against the sale. We turned out our activists to both major hearings, recruited other conservation and hunting organizations to join with us, secured dozens of media stories, including in the [New York Times](#) and NPR's [All Things Considered](#), as well as editorials condemning the sale from every major newspaper in the state.

Our staff of canvassers, callers and internet organizers generated more than 6,300 petition signatures asking Gov. Perry to intervene and direct his appointee on the Board to vote against Land Commissioner Patterson, the leading proponent of selling the land. The strategy worked, with the *Dallas Morning News* reporting that Perry told his appointee that there was "no sense in being hard-headed and running recklessly into a rushed sale" if the

National Park Service had finally decided it was interested.

We still have a lot of work to do to ensure the land is permanently protected as part of Big Bend National Park, including securing Congressional authorization and guarding against new obstacles Commissioner Patterson may put forth. But we can enjoy this holiday season knowing the future is looking very good for the Christmas Mountains.

Funding for State Parks

Texas voters on Nov. 6 approved Proposition 4, a statewide bond to fund more than \$52 million in badly needed repairs to facilities in state parks like Bastrop, Garner and Enchanted Rock. The approval completes the total of \$182 million in additional funding for our state and local parks for the 2008-09 biennium. The additional funds will allow the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to rehire laid-off park rangers, re-open campgrounds, repair decaying facilities, and acquire sensitive lands to create a new state park.

Clean Energy for America

On December 19, President Bush signed major energy legislation that increases fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks for the first time in over thirty years. This improvement in fuel economy will make real progress on global warming. By making our cars go farther on a gallon of gas, we can cut global warming pollution by more than the total annual emissions of countries like Brazil, France or Spain.

The compromise forged with the auto industry, which ensures that we achieve 35 mpg fleet-wide by 2020, represents an historic breakthrough on energy policy that will benefit the environment, consumers, and our national security. The standard will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 192 million metric tons (CO2 equivalent) and save America 1.1 million barrels per day in 2020, according to analysis conducted by the Union of Concerned Scientists. According to our report [Driving Towards a New Energy Future](#), the standards will also save Texas consumers \$2 billion per year at the gas pump in 2020.

We are thrilled that this Congress has turned a corner on energy policy by delivering long-overdue oil savings for America, but we are disappointed the President has blocked progress on renewable energy. We look forward to taking the next step toward a new energy

future by passing renewable energy standards and incentives when Congress returns in 2008, and urge the President to make signing a renewable energy bill a cornerstone of his final year in office.

At the state level, we also made progress for renewable energy and energy efficiency. First, we helped repeal the notorious "section M," which threatened to derail Texas' voluntary renewable energy market. We also played an important role in the passage of HB 3693 (Straus), which doubles the state's goal for utility efficiency programs and allows homeowners with solar panels to get credit from their utility for excess electricity put back on to the grid.

Groundwork for New Victories

In 2007, Environment Texas recruited, trained and placed twenty-four college students in internships with organizations in the Houston area, including the Galveston Houston Association for Smog Prevention, the Baylor College of Medicine Environmental Health Section, the Houston Audubon Society, and the office of Houston Mayor Bill White. In addition, dozens of young people got their first experience in environmental activism by working for our citizen outreach program in 2007.

On Oct. 11, Environment Texas marked the 35th anniversary of the Clean Water Act with the release of [Troubled Waters: An analysis of Clean Water Act compliance](#), which found that more than 53 percent of industrial and municipal facilities across Texas discharged more pollution into our waterways than their Clean Water Act permits allow in 2005. Working with state Rep. Mike Villarreal, fishing organizations like Texas Black Bass Unlimited and local environmental organizations, Environment Texas held news conferences in Houston, San Antonio and Austin to alert the media and the public to the findings. We used the report to draw attention to lax enforcement at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and repeated our call for the agency to strengthen its penalty policy.

Building on our success last year in helping convince Congress to reauthorize the Magnusson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, Environment Texas worked this year to ensure the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adopts strong rules to fight overfishing. We recruited more than twenty marine biologists, legislators, fishing organizations and local businesses in Texas to submit comments to

NMFS, published 8 op-eds and letters-to-the-editor in key newspapers, and generated hundreds of public comments.

On July 24, Environment Texas released [Feeling the Heat: Global Warming and Rising Temperatures in the United States](#), a report which analyzed the record-breaking summer heat of 2006. The report, widely covered in the media, found that several Texas cities, including Austin, San Antonio and Wichita Falls led the nation in abnormal numbers of excessive heat days. Environment Texas used the report to call on Congress to pass science-based limits on global warming pollution.

All of us at Environment Texas look forward to working with you in the New Year to protect the state's environment, and we wish you the happiest of holiday seasons.

Luke Metzger, Environment Texas Director
LukeM@environmenttexas.org
<http://www.environmenttexas.org>

Monarch Watch Blog Debut

The Monarch Watch program has introduced its official Monarch Watch Blog for 2008: <http://www.MonarchWatch.org/blog>.

NPAT's PrairieBlog: Native Prairies and Grasslands

NPAT's Jason Spangler has created a [prairie blog](#) on Wumple.com for news about native prairie (tallgrass and shortgrass), savanna, desert grassland, and other native grassland related news. Check out [PrairieBlog](#) at <http://prairieblog.wumple.com/> the current native prairie news!



Local News

Wimberley Butterfly Watch

Butterfly diversity and numbers decreased sharply in December with the arrival of regular cool fronts. We observed no unusual visitors in December, but the underlined names indicate that Wimberley saw its share of uncommon visitors during 2007

1-	11-	21-
10	20	31

Giant Swallowtail
Pipevine Swallowtail

Black Swallowtail			
Eastern Tiger Sw'tail			
Checkered White			
Orange Sulphur			
Southern Dogface	x		
Lyside Sulphur			
Cloudless Sulphur	x		
Orange-barrred Sulphur			
Large Orange Sulfur			
Little Yellow			
Sleepy Orange	x	x	x
Dainty Sulphur	x	x	x
Great Purple Hairstr.	x		
Dusky Blue			
Groundstreak			
Henry's Elfin			
Juniper Hairstreak			
Oak Hairstreak			
Soapberry Hairstreak			
Gray Hairstreak			x
Mallow Scrub Hairstrk			
<u>Western Pigmy Blue</u>			
Marine Blue			
Reakirt's Blue			
Eastern Tailed Blue			
American Snout			
Gulf Fritillary	x	x	
<u>Julia Heliconian</u>			
<u>Zebra Heliconian</u>			
Variiegated Fritillary	x	x	
Bordered Patch			
Theona Checkerspot			
Pearl Crescent			
Phaon Crescent			
Texan Crescent			
Question Mark			
Eastern Comma			
Red Admiral	x	x	x
American Lady	x	x	x
Painted Lady	x	x	x
Common Buckeye	x	x	
Common Mestra	x		
Goatweed Leafwing			
Tropical Leafwing			
<u>Red-spotted Purple</u>			
Hackberry Emperor			
Tawny Emperor			
Empress Leilia			
Common WoodNymph			
Red Satyr			
Little Wood Satyr			
Carolina Satyr			
Monarch			
Queen	x	x	
Silver-spotted Skipper			
White-striped Longtail			

Dorantes Longtail			
Long-tailed Skipper			
Northern Cloudywing			
Sickle-winged Skipper			
Juvenal's Duskywing			
Horace's Duskywing			
Funereal Duskywing			
Sleepy Duskywing			
Checkered Skipper		x	x
<u>Lavinia White-skipper</u>			
Southern Skipperling			
Julia's Skipper			
Fiery Skipper		x	
Sachem			
Whirlabout			
Dun Skipper		x	
Roadside Skipper			
Eufala Skipper			
Ocola Skipper			

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.smgreenbelt.org>