

# Hays County Master Naturalists NEWSLETTER



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

July, 2007

## JULY EVENTS

### *Fourth of July Parade*

The organizational meeting of the HCMN July 4 Parade Committee was held May 10 with 6 people attending. The 2007 Wimberley Parade Theme is "Spirit of Wimberley". In response, the committee voted to name our entry: **The Spirit of Wimberley: "Preserve What You Love."**

The chapter entered its first float in Wimberley's annual parade last year. About 30 of us worked together to decorate the float, design t-shirts, develop handouts and organize the **Hays County Master Naturalist Marching Kazoo Band**. We provided chapter information to the parade goers, many of whom were very pleased to see us. Our first entry won an Honorable mention in the Most Original category. This outreach project was very successful and a lot of fun.

**RECRUITMENT:** This project works if we have a lot of people. Our band's size and enthusiasm make up for our humble instruments and possible lack of musical ability. There are other tasks to fulfill such as decorating, riding on the float, or walking along distributing material to adults and children, and helping with transportation from the end of the parade. We have added choreography and a little percussion to the band. ***If you have already signed up to participate, please encourage others to join us.***

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** This project qualifies for volunteer hours.

People are encouraged to carpool from Susan Nenny's home, 820 Red Hawk Road, or other locations to the parade assembly site at the Baptist Church on the east side of town.

## HAYS COUNTY MASTER NATURALISTS

### *Board of Directors*

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

**AFTER-PARADE PARTY:** At the end of the parade, you are invited to chill in the cool and beautiful swimming pool of HCMN Gary Barr and Michael Butler, 790 Red Hawk Road.



## THE PRESIDENTIAL VIEW

Water, water every where! What else could there possibly be to talk about?

All jesting aside, we have set some records for rainfall in the central part of Texas. One report I have recently heard is that the hill country has received more rain this year than any other year on record since 1944. Now that is something to talk about among ourselves and to our neighbors. It is also a good time to inform the public about how important water is in Texas, and especially in Hays County.

Water is the main focus of the Jacob's Well Restoration Project, Aquarena Springs, the San Marcos River, and the Rivers Institute at Texas

State University. Even though we have had sufficient rain for about a month, the conservation of water is still (and always will be) an important issue. Today's floods and high waters may be the precursor to more drought conditions next year.

A result of large amounts of rain has been an abundance of green growth everywhere in Hays County. Along with that are large populations of insects, which provide the basis for food webs. I have observed large numbers of dragonflies hovering over my back yard; 15 – 20 at a time flying in a "squadron" and maneuvering about to attack other flying bugs. My bee populations have exploded and my 2 hives have developed into 3 after one hive swarmed because the population was so high. I have also seen more butterflies on my property than ever before, partly because of the native plants present and the maturing of the wildscape in my back yard.

Observing nature is a great pastime and more enjoyable when you share knowledge with your neighbors. Please stay active, interested, and DRY!

Keep up the work!

Dale ✨



## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### *Herb Smith's Photo Wins Best in Show*

Master Naturalist Herb Smith's photograph *Cypress Roots* was named Best in Show at the opening of the Wimberley Valley Art League's Gallery in the Wimberley Community Center on May 26.

Dan Kleiner writes in the *Wimberley View*: "A journey through Smith's work is like a walk along the most scenic twists and trails the Village of Wimberley has to offer.

Black and white images of the Blanco River reveal soft characterizations of views that many people have seen many times, but Smith's photography portrays them in a unique fashion using digital photography. . . .

Smith loves all nature, but his acute passion for cypress trees drove the inspiration behind the award-winning *Cypress Roots*. . . . Massive cypress roots spill forth from some indeterminate point outside the realm of the piece and fade in the early morning light into a background of backlit water. The faint reflection of those roots serves as a buffer into the blackness that frames the top of the portrait as the water escapes off the page."

Herb's winning photograph remains on display at the WVAL Gallery, and more may be seen at his personal website, <http://herbsmithphotos.com>. ✨

### *Herb Smith Recognized for Top Web Page Design*

Manuelita Ureta, Web Master of the Brazos Valley MN Chapter, writes to tell us that the web site our Web Master Herb Smith designed wins her vote for tops in Texas. Ureta looked at all the Texas MN web sites and ours wins hands down. Herb's design is one of only two that allow online reporting of volunteer and advanced training hours. ✨

### *Wild Ones Flying Wild*

The Wild Ones, our chapter's educational outreach specialists, have completed the new "Flying Wild" course in the Project Wild curriculum from Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Kara Wernli says The Wild Ones will incorporate Flying Wild activities into the program they have developed for the Patsy Glenn Refuge in Wimberley. The Wild Ones are beginning their third year of bringing third grade students to the Patsy Glenn Refuge for activity-oriented classes. Their students come from Bowen Elementary in Wimberly and the Master's School in Wimberley. Jan Little says the team looks forward to extending their program to fourth graders next and eventually to high school students.

Our Wild Ones include Jean McMeans, Maggie Broyles, Linda Lang, Cara Wernli, Cecilia Kelley, Dorothy Knight, Jessie Huth, Jaci Kroupa, Karen Hayward, Jane Little, Pat Davis, and Sandy Lucas.



## CHAPTER NEWS

### *June Chapter Meeting*

Jan Fulkerson, the Wimberley representative of Texas Forest Service came to speak on Wildfire Preparedness, which is what we can do to protect ourselves if we live in inflammable homes surrounded by combustible vegetation.

Without preparedness, uncontrolled fires in grasslands or forests easily turn into wildfires with disastrous results. Here in Texas, we have 22.5 million residents, 80% of whom live on less than 6% of the state's area, leaving the other 20% widely dispersed in areas prone to wildfires. For fire-fighting, they must depend on rural volunteer fire departments. Although nominally not professional, these departments are trained and experienced in wildfire control, and they recognize that control begins with preparedness on the part of firewise rural residents. The Forest Service works with volunteer fire departments to inform rural residents about all aspects of building for fire safety and property maintenance for fire safety.

Jan reports that Texas Forest Service has also developed a Citizen Wildfire Ecology certification program for Master Naturalists and other interested persons. The announcement follows in the Advanced Training column.

Our meeting included a preview of the **Hays County Master Naturalist Marching Kazoo Band**, which now includes a bass drum and a snare drum. Ella Hetherly, Susan Zimmerman, Shirley Couvillon, Mary Arizpe, Cara Wernli, Jane Little, and Jean McMeans brought homemade cookies and brownies that we all enjoyed and applaud. ✨

### *Abby Linam update, June 24*

Here's the weekly wrap on our family news. As Frank was finishing his final day of basketball camp on Friday (he received the camp award for "Team Player," an honor of which I'm very proud), I took Abby to her therapy session. It was my first time to sit in on a session, and it was pretty insightful. The therapy, which uses a program called "Interactive Metronome," requires Abby to perform several motor tasks rhythmically

following a tone generated by a computer. It's a "cutting edge" treatment approach and, in many cases, has been shown to improve the brain's efficiency or processing speed, along with benefits to memory and many motor responses. All I can say is that it's challenging (which seems to be important in brain therapy)--I did a terrible job when Abby's therapist let me try the simplest of the exercises! Similar treatments have also been used to counter cognitive declines associated with aging, so maybe I need to sign up for more sessions!

Finally, I want to close this post with a huge "thank-you" to those of you who have been reading this blog for so long. I am humbled that you have poured out your care on us and on Abby. Your love and prayers have held us up and helped heal Abby to this point. Although right now she is weary of being the "girl that was in the accident," I will never stop telling her of the people who cried for her, prayed for her, cheered for her, and shared our great, great joy.

Love, --the Linams ✨

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

### *Volunteers Needed for Committee Assignments*

Dixie Camp needs volunteers to assist her with 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 this committee and earn volunteer hours, please contact 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](mailto:recordscom@haysmn.org), or send them by USsnail Mail to 2303 E. McCarty, San Marcos, TX 78666.

-- Judy Telford ✨  
✨ ✨ ✨

## CALENDAR

(The dragonfly logo identifies official HCMN events)

- ✦ July 4, **Independence Day Parade**, Wimberley
- ✦ July 9, **2007 Class Site Visit**
- ✦ July 17, **2007 Class Meeting**. Ornithology, Chapter 10. Forest Ecology & Management, Chapter 17.
- ✦ July 26, **2007 Class Site Visit**
- July 29-August 3. **11<sup>th</sup> Annual GLOBE Conference**, San Antonio. More info below.
- ✦ August 9, **2007 Class Site Visit**
- ✦ August 14, **2007 Class Meeting**. Wildlife, Mammals & Habitat, Chapter 15. Wildlife Ag Exemptions: Why & How.
- ✦ August 25. **2007 Class Field Trip**, LBJ Wildflower Centre. Native plants, seeds, prairies & restoration.
- ✦ August 28. **2007 Class Site Visit**
- ✦ September 6. **2007 Class Site Visit**
- ✦ September 15, **2007 Class Meeting**, John Knox Ranch. Water Quality & Fish, Chapter 12. Amphibians, Chapter 13.
- ✦ September 20. **2007 Class Site Visit**
- ✦ October 2. **2007 Class Meeting**. Urbanization & Land Fragmentation, Chapter 20. Volunteers as Teachers, Interpretation, Chapter 21.
- ✦ October 6-7. **WILDLIFE EXPO 2007**, TP&WD, Austin. More info below.
- ✦ October 12-14. **TMN Statewide Annual Meeting**, San Antonio. More info below.
- ✦ October 18-21. **The Blackland and Grand Prairies and Grasslands of the Edwards Plateau**. NPSOT Symposium, Sun City/Georgetown. More info below.
- ✦ October 27, **2007 Class Graduation**.

October 25. **Texas Bluebird Society Annual Meeting**, McKinney Falls State Park.

✦ November 3, 10, and December 1. **Certification Program for Citizen Wildfire Ecology Specialists**. Comal Co Extension Office. More info below.



## ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### *TMN Statewide Annual Meeting*

#### OCTOBER 12-14, SAN ANTONIO

2007 is the 10th Anniversary of our founding Texas Master Naturalist Chapter--The Alamo Area Chapter! So come on for a Texas Master Naturalist Fiesta to celebrate this special milestone for this chapter and our state program.

San Antonio has more natural areas to see and Advanced Training field sessions than we can offer through just one weekend! You won't be disappointed! This year's annual meeting will be hosted by the Alamo Area Chapter and sponsored in part by the San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department.

**Location:** One major difference for this year's annual meeting is that we will use a hotel as our conference facility. The **Hilton San Antonio Airport** will be our host hotel and the primary location of our group events. We have planned an agenda with as much outdoor time as our past meetings. San Antonio has much to offer for the naturalist enthusiast wanting to learn about and conserve our ever-changing habitats, species and populations and the conservation of those resources faced with the numerous natural resource challenges of an urban or urbanizing area.

You can make your room reservations today at the Hilton. Room costs will be separate from your annual meeting registration costs. However, the two costs combined will be comparable--if not the same as-- past years' fees of \$180 for the full event).

#### ROOM COSTS:

Rooms cost \$85.00 per night for a King sized room OR a double room. King sized rooms allow up to two people with a king-sized bed. Double Rooms allow up to four people per room

with two double beds (roll-aways can be ordered at an extra cost if you so desire) You will need to make your room arrangements and payments directly with the Hilton. If needed, room rates may be extended three days prior to and after the event, based on availability.

#### BOOKING YOUR ROOMS

Attendees can book online or by phone today! You must mention the group code when booking the room. This will allow the reservations department to pull up the special group rate. It is vital you mention this code. There is also a spot online to input this code.

#### GROUP CODE: TPWD

Room rates guaranteed with Reservations made by September 14th, 2007. Phone: 1-888-728-3031. Online:

<http://www.sanantonioairport.hilton.com>

#### HIGHLIGHTED ANNUAL MEETING

AGENDA ITEMS: (Annual Meeting registration and information packet not yet available)

- Geology and Plants Training at the Canyon Lake Gorge
- The ever-popular Annual Meeting volunteer project
- Awards banquet (where you can bring your spouse and/or family members)
- Rainwater Harvesting Training
- many other regular Annual Meeting happenings.
- lots of new events being planned by the Alamo Area Chapter as the host chapter for this year's event!
- and several more surprises!

#### BRING THE FAMILY!

Given the affordable overnight accommodations and the space available to us at the Hilton San Antonio Airport, I hope that you will consider bringing your families and making this trip a family event. We're planning a banquet and meal Saturday evening that I hope you will attend with family to celebrate your accomplishments and awards as a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer! We are planning a special fee for non-registered family members wishing to purchase a banquet ticket when attending with a TMN Member registered for the Annual Meeting.

#### RENT A VAN?

Your chapter might want to consider car-pooling or renting a van as a chapter to cut down on the gas costs (if this is something your chapter considers, let Michelle know, we might be able to figure out some cost-sharing if we

can utilize the van for off-site field trips while on site at the Annual Meeting).

Please note that registration for the meeting is not yet available. We will send notices once it becomes available.

Looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio at this year's Annual Meeting!

Michelle M. Haggerty

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Master Naturalist Program Coordinator

309 Sidney Baker South, Kerrville, TX 78028

Ph: 830-896-2500

Fax: 830-792-6167

Mobile: 979-587-2627

[mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu)

### *The Blackland and Grand Prairies and Grasslands of the Edwards Plateau*

*Efforts to Identify, Restore, Conserve and  
Celebrate a Natural Treasure.*

#### NPSOT/NPAT SYMPOSIUM, OCTOBER 18-21.

You will have an opportunity to meet and visit with our members and guests who care deeply about our environment, especially native plants and plant ecosystems. Many of our combined 2000 members of NPSOT and NPAT will travel from cities all over Texas. These individuals promote the conservation, research and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example.

Our speakers, including keynote speaker Matt White, author of the inspirational new book, *Prairie Time*, are already committed. They will address participants and answer questions in the newly enlarged Social Center Ballroom and other meeting rooms of Sun City Texas in Georgetown. The speaker list, schedule of events, and information about how you can participate in the symposium are described below, and on the event web site <http://npsot.org/symposium2007>. This web site will be regularly updated with the names of sponsors and vendors.

To request a registration packet, please visit our website

<http://npsot.org/symposium2007>.

The caliber of our speakers and our central Georgetown location is expected to attract 400-500 registrations.

Conservation and restoration of our native prairies and grasslands has received a great deal of attention recently. More people are beginning to appreciate the beauty, and great loss, of the prairie habitat and the importance of the grassland ecosystem which captures and retains moisture, requires no fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides, develops extensive root systems which prevent soil erosion and does a fine job of taking in the carbon dioxide emissions implicated in global warming. Today, native, undisturbed, prairies in Texas are very rare and what remnants do remain continue to be lost to farming, grazing and development.

Every acre of high quality prairie habitat has 200 to 300 different kinds of wildflowers and grasses that are native to the American prairies. The Tallgrass Prairie is a proud part of our heritage. It is the original unchanged land that the ancestors of our community walked upon, the landscape of our pioneer heritage.

Please join us for an event that will help define a better future for all Texans.

### *Kerr WMA First Saturday Tours*

In an effort to reach more landowners the Kerr WMA has moved its First Friday Tours to the first Saturday of each month.

First Saturday Programs will begin in July and run through October with each program starting at 1 pm and wrapping up around 5 pm.

The program is an ecosystems approach as it pertains to range and wildlife habitat management. Topics discussed will include white-tailed deer management, grazing management, prescribed burning, brush control, and endangered species. The program will also include over 20 years of nutrition and genetics research conducted in the Donnie E. Harmel White-tailed Deer Research Facility.

Dates are as follows: July 7, August 4, September 8 (to avoid Labor Day weekend), and October 6.

Please pass this information along to anyone that may be working with landowners and/or cooperators who are interested.

For more information or registration, please call Dale F. Prochaska, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., Kerr WMA, 2625 FM 1340, Hunt, TX 78024. Office 830-238-4483; Fax 830-238-4738  
[windy.altum@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:windy.altum@tpwd.state.tx.us)  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

### *Certification Program for Citizen Wildfire Ecology Specialists*

NOVEMBER 3, 10, AND DECEMBER 1.  
COMAL CO EXTENSION OFFICE.

Texas Forest Service, Texas Extension Service, and Texas Master Naturalists present this 30-hour course to help citizens prepare themselves and their properties before wildfires strike. The course covers wildfire ecology and fire risk recognition, assessment, and reduction. It includes individual and group firewise planning projects and a hands-on field trip. For more information or registration, please contact Jan Fulkerson, Texas Forest Service, P O Box 1692, Wimberley, TX 78676; 512-847-7837; [jfulkerson@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jfulkerson@tfs.tamu.edu). The registration fee is \$50.00



### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

#### *Texas Outdoor Education Conference*

The Texas Outdoor Education Association Fall Conference, October 5, 6, and 7 at the H.E.B. Foundation camp near Leaky, Texas will offer a Project Wild workshop and a Science & Civics workshop. The WILD workshop will be 6 hours and Science & Civics is a minimum of 2 hours.

Please let me know if you would be interested in conducting either or both workshops. I believe that you will be able to pick the date that best fits your schedule. TOEA will provide food and lodging at the HEB camp for the Facilitator. (We hear they have new cabins and the food is great. Fresh baked cookies every afternoon!)

Thanks for your consideration and keeping Texas WILD!

Windy Altum, Outdoor Learning Programs, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744. 512-389-8183;

Toll Free: 1-800-792-1112, ext 8183; Fax: 512-389-8042. [windy.altum@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:windy.altum@tpwd.state.tx.us);  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

## *Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo*

### OCTOBER 6 & 7

Mark Klym, TP&W's Design With Nature Coordinator, invites Hays County Master Naturalists to be a big part of the team for this event.

Mark will have 4 stations for EXPO this year, requiring 6 people per day per station (2 from 8 -12, 1 from 10 to 2, 1 from 12 to 4, and 2 from 2 to 6 (probably getting away a little earlier but can not be certain depending on traffic). Volunteers should contact Susan Nenney soon as possible with:

Area they prefer to work in (Wildscapes, Hummingbirds, Backyard Habitat Questions, Children's Area)

Shift(s) they would like

Shirt Size

Any special needs

Any special skills (Spanish would be ESPECIALLY Helpful)

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

**Wildscapes:** will be located close to the actual wildscape. Will have a display that involves simulating the change over time (by doing a little each month) that can take place from the typical suburban development yard (two trees, one dead one alive and box hedges) to a wildscape.

**Hummingbirds:** will be under a canopy. They will have a game (Hummingbird Identification) and those that do well will probably get a poster (not confirmed yet). They will answer general questions about hummingbirds/hummingbird habitat, and refer any trickier questions to myself (Yes, Mark will be there this year!)

**Backyard Habitat Questions:** this is mainly to take some pressure off the Wildscapes area, but they will answer ID questions, what plants would we recommend, hand out wildscapes and Best of Texas literature, when can I expect the Bluebirds, etc. (Bluebird Society will be here so specific bluebird questions can be referred to them or me).

**Children's Area:** Will be close to the Wildscapes area designed to get the kids' attention so that we can talk to the adults. Two

games - *Where Would I Nest* and *Am I A Native Texan*. Hand out prizes.

Mark is trying to get TPWD staff to man the literature and sales tables but if that falls through, may have to come to the Master Naturalists for additional staff.

Other groups with us this year in addition to other chapters: the Master Naturalists table; Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (not confirmed); Texas Bluebird Society; Outdoor Connections (not confirmed)

For more information, please contact Mark Klym, Design With Nature Coordinator, [mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us)



## *Wildscape Garden, San Marcos Nature Center*

### HCMN PROJECT #405

Spring rains continued into June, and we have lizard tail gaura, horsemint, and sunflowers that are 5 to 8 feet tall. The blue bonnets, poppies, and gaillardia have died back, leaving an untidy understory tangle with few other seasonal wildflowers. Pecan and elm seedlings pop up through the tangle, and passion vines are overgrowing parts of it. Gulf Fritillary butterflies thrive in such conditions, and they whirl around you while you work. Texan Crescents are more numerous this year and twice the size of their Wimberley cousins.

Sow thistles, hedge parsley, black medicago, and pecan and elm seedlings thrive regardless of regular weeding.

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](mailto:news@haysmn.org).



## *Jacob's Well*

### HCMN PROJECT #603

Walt Krudop and Dale Shively meet with David Baker (Executive Director) and Michael Pape of the Wimberley Valley Water Association on May 21.

Discussions involved how the HCMN can play an organized role in the various phases of the Jacob's Well project. Volunteer work at Jacob's Well has been pre-approved but a new project leader and a strategic plan needs to be developed. Walt will work on a draft concept and will form a committee to get plans developed. Before volunteers begin work, the HCMN plan for the project will be drafted and then a call for volunteer work groups\dates arranged. This project will constitute a formal Chapter-sponsored volunteer activity. More to come. ✨

## *Passionate Prairie People*

Texas Parks and Wildlife is looking for some TMN prairie experts to assist with the Wildlife EXPO's "Settler's Prairie" exhibit, October 6-7, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

At the entrance to the Expo grounds is a small Indian and Little bluestem grass prairie. It sits across from Smith Elementary School where teachers use the prairie as an outdoor classroom. Each year at EXPO the students come to the prairie (in costume) and perform reenactments of life on a Texas prairie as Native Americans (with a tipi) or settlers (with a covered wagon). We also have a tent with a seedball activity and a few exhibits.

Visitors can make a few seedballs and take a few dry ones home. The exhibit draws many Hispanic and African American children, mostly from the urban areas of Austin, who probably know very little about Texas grasslands. For that reason we'd like to recruit some talented folks with a passion for prairies who like to work with kids.

Our tent includes all the materials to make and take seedballs, a display of live prairie plants and a photo exhibit of prairie animals. Volunteers are welcome to bring in their own exhibits and or outreach materials and activities. Teachers from Smith School manage the children doing the reenactments so volunteers would be working primarily with Expo visitors.

We need 4 to 6 volunteers for each day. If this sounds like something you'd like to do please contact: Pat Morton, 512-912-7020 or

[patricia.morton@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:patricia.morton@tpwd.state.tx.us). We can offer you an Expo t-shirt, tickets to the Expo banquet on Saturday evening and an opportunity to enjoy the myriad of exhibits and activities that showcase the diversity of ways to be involved in the great outdoors of Texas! ✨

## *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.

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

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



## **State News**

### *Master Naturalists Document Ridley Turtle Nests on Bryan Beach*

FREEPORT, MAY 26, 2007

The first documented sea turtle nest on Bryan Beach was found Friday morning, and a team from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dug up 105 Kemp's Ridley eggs.

"Amazing," said Tracie Teague, a Texas Master Naturalist and sea turtle searcher. "I thought for sure the call was for Quintana. I was shocked. Now we've got three in the county."

The nest was buried 41 centimeters under the sand and was 34 centimeters wide, Teague said. Two sets of tracks were found, but after an hour of searching, the team determined there was not another nest, although it will keep a lookout.

The eggs found in the nest will be transferred to the Padre Island National Seashore, where they will be incubated for

about 60 days, Teague said. After they hatch, they will be released into the Gulf of Mexico. The Kemp's ridley is the world's most endangered sea turtle.

The team also has packed sand from Bryan Beach with the nest because research has proven that turtles will return to their native beach if the sand is imprinted in them. The sand will be leveled out so that if the team missed a nest, it will be easy for the turtles to dig themselves out when they hatch, Ramos said.

A Freeport city worker spotted the Kemp's ridley tracks about 10 a.m., just below the grade, and Ramos wanted to thank city employees for always taking time to watch for sea turtles.

More than 75 Kemp's Ridley nests have been found so far on Texas beaches this year, a number that is higher than last year at this time.

By John Lowman, *The Facts*, May 26, 2007  
<http://thefacts.com/story.lasso?ewcd=c8d44227e231b3ae>



## Local News

### *Naturescapes Photo Contest*

There's still plenty of time to take that award-winning photo in San Marcos or Hays County by the July 30 contest deadline. You don't have to be a professional photographer to win. Please remember to tell friends and family. Contest sponsored by San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance. Details at <http://www.smgreenbelt.org/PhotoContest.htm>

### *Refuge Renamed*

Following a unanimous vote by the Wimberley Birding Society's officers and board, on Friday, June 15, the Wimberley Birding Society's bird and nature sanctuary was officially renamed the [Patsy Glenn Refuge](#). Appropriate signage was posted at the chimney

swift kiosk to reflect the change and this notice was posted for all visitors to see.

## *Wimberley Butterfly Watch*

Butterflies observed in and around Wimberley diminished sharply in June in number of species and individuals. Estivation and the onslaught of summer heat, martins, and swallows usually account for the seasonal change.

	1-10	11-20	21-30
Giant Swallowtail			x
Pipevine Swallowtail	x	x	x
Black Swallowtail	x	x	x
Eastern Tiger Sw'tail	x	x	x
Checkered White	x	x	
Orange Sulphur	x	x	x
Southern Dogface			
Lyside Sulphur			
Cloudless Sulphur	x		
Large Orange Sulfur			
Little Yellow	x	x	x
Sleepy Orange	x	x	x
Dainty Sulphur	x	x	x
Great Purple Hairstr.	x	x	
Henry's Elfin			
Juniper Hairstreak	x		x
Oak Hairstreak		x	
Soapberry Hairstreak			
Gray Hairstreak	x	x	x
Reakirt's Blue	x		
American Snout			
Gulf Fritillary	x	x	x
Variigated Fritillary	x		x
Bordered Patch	x	x	x
Theona Checkerspot	x	x	x
Pearl Crescent			
Texan Crescent	x	x	x
Question Mark			
Red Admiral			
American Lady	x		
Painted Lady			
Common Buckeye	x	x	x
Tropical Leafwing	x	x	x
Hackberry Emperor			x
Tawny Emperor			
Empress Leilia		x	
Common WoodNymph			x
Little Wood Satyr			x
Carolina Satyr		x	x
Monarch			x
Queen	x	x	x
Silver-spotted Skipper			
Northern Cloudywing	x	x	x

Juvenal's Duskywing		x	x
Horace's Duskywing	X	x	
Funereal Duskywing			x
Sleepy Duskywing			
Checkered Skipper		x	x
Orange Skipperling			
Fiery Skipper	x	x	x
Dun Skipper			x

If you spotted something we missed,  
please email your editor at [news@haysmn.org](mailto:news@haysmn.org)



## Links to Chapter Sponsors and Partners

### *Sponsors:*

Texas Master Naturalist - State Website -

[masternaturalist.tamu.edu](http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu)

Texas Cooperative Extension – [agextension.tamu.edu/](http://agextension.tamu.edu/)

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department –

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/)

### *Agencies of Interest:*

Bamberger Ranch --

<http://www.bambergerranch.org/workshops.htm>

Native Plant Society of Texas – [www.npsot.org/](http://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/](http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu/)

Texas Forest Service – [txforestservation.tamu.edu/](http://txforestservation.tamu.edu/)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers –

[www.usace.army.mil/](http://www.usace.army.mil/)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – [www.fws.gov/](http://www.fws.gov/)

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[nrcs.usda.gov/](http://nrcs.usda.gov/)

### *Partners*

Austin Nature Day --

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