



# Texas Master Naturalist Newsletter

Volume II No. IX

June 2000

**Class Meeting: Tuesday, June 13, 2000**

**Hays County Extension Office**

**Topics:**

- ★ **Wildscaping - Kelly Bender, TP&W Urban Biologist**
- ★ **Wildlife Management - Mike Reagan, TP&W Private Landowner Biologist**
- ★ **Road kill Survey & Observations - Billy Kniffen, Delbert Bassett**
- ★ **Volunteer Opportunities - Delbert Bassett**

**Billy Kniffen**  
County Extension Agent  
Hays County

*"We are only about 500 in number... Forest, grazing land, and land for cultivated fields of the best quality are available. But what does that matter to me? Palmate yuccas, cactus, and mimosas and the fragrance and blossoms of them all, that's for me. Here I have seen for the first time the total splendor of the prairies. Flowers upon flowers, richer than the richest Persian carpet."*

**- Ferdinand Lindheimer**  
(Letter to Engelmann, dated April 18, 1845 describing land around Comal Springs.)



**June's program:**

Wildlife, wildscaping and wildlife management are the topics for June's program. **Kelly Bender, with the TP&W in Austin will discuss Wildscaping** for non-game animals on our land. She will be followed by **Mike Reagan, TP&W biologist** assisting private landowners in a 28 county area. He assists larger landowners in **developing wildlife management plans, wildlife surveys and habitat improvement.**

**Special Field Trip for You on September 16.**

This will be your opportunity to see the largest white tail deer research area in the world. The **Kerr Wildlife Management Area**, west of Kerrville, has many years of research information on deer, cow birds, golden cheeked warblers, prescribed burning and other wildlife management. We will start the program there at 10:00 a.m. and it will last till about 3:00 p.m.. We will need to leave about 7:30 from San

Marcos and some may want to stop at Kerrville or Fredericksburg after the tour. Mark your calenders now.

**2000 Annual Texas Prairies & Savannahs Conference, July 7-9, 2000** in Austin at LBJ Wildflower Center. I will enclose flier and registration on it for you. It would count as advanced training.



*Rain simulator set up at Texas Natural. Kay Beth Williams and Joe Piazza pictured are 2 of the several volunteers that helped at the Extension booth, Thanks all.*

### Help needed to:

- make rain simulator containers for Freeman Ranch (2 large containers)
- help Curtis Chub put in rainwater collection system at the Extension Office.
- work on garden plots at Extension Office
- organize files and information on class and resources
- collect wildflower seeds for kids packets this fall or next spring (everyone can collect a paper bag full)
- organize volunteer hours, and list of people who volunteered for each project
- keep bulletin board organized and up -to-date.
- talk to some boy scouts on June 14 or 15 about natural resource conservation using rain simulator

**Combined monthly programs - the San Marcos Chapter of the Native Plant Society, Master Gardeners Association and Master Naturalist Association will and meet the second Thursday of each month.** The first program will be an ice cream social on August 10. They also plan to make pots or objects out of cement and peat moss or something else? It should be fun.. Then September 14 will be a great program to get all 3 organizations on the move.

*"Minds are like parachutes:  
they only function when open."*  
-T. Dewey

### Dates to remember

- June 13** - Master Naturalist  
Class meeting -  
Extension Office
- June 26-28** - Natural Resource  
Camp - Wimberley
- July 7-9** - Texas Prairie  
Conference
- July 11** - put in paired plots at  
Bamberger's Ranch
- July 11** - Master Naturalist Class
- July 13** - MN, MG, NPSOT  
meeting, program -  
Drought
- July 22** - Wildlife Mgt. Seminar
- August 10** - ice cream social and  
making unique cement  
pots with  
MN, MG, NPSOT
- September 16** - Kerr Wildlife  
Mgt. Area Tour

**Red Corral Ranch Field Day was great - thanks to** all who helped park cars, assisted with the tours, lunch and the likes. I appreciate your help, especially in front of those who need to know more about you. About 140 attended. It was a good day.

**Please evaluate your seed balls,** they may be doing something at your place. Please go evaluate any change and report it with your road kill survey. Enclosed is a **road kill form.** I hope you have taken time to write down road kill one week during the month. Delbert Bassett is tabulating the

information. The information has the interest of a number of people. Thanks for doing it. I'll give you an update at class time.



*The seed balls sprouting in the containers at the Extension office.*

**Rainfall measurements- I have new rain gauges if you want one. Mary Fulton is collecting this information.** E-mail your collections to her (or bring them to class with you. This too will give us a better indication of rainfall patterns, localized droughts and flooding. We will combine it with neighboring counties to get a bigger picture.

**Area Coordinators:** there are individuals that I call on to do assistance in areas of the county. They are: **Dell Hood** will be the coordinator in Wimberley to make contacts with those who could make home visits. **Delbert Bassett** will call for help around Dripping Springs and **Alice Johnson** will call for the San Marcos area.

**See you Tuesday.**