

# Hays County

# Texas Master Naturalist Newsletter

Volume III No. 2

March 2001

**Class Meeting: Tuesday, March 13, 2001**

**Extension Office 6:00-9 p.m.**

**Topics:**

★Meal - Jocelyn Guajardo and Volunteers

★Water Watch - Joe Piazza

★Geology

★Rainfall Simulator, Road kill, Opportunities, Observations - Billy Kniffen

**Billy Kniffen**  
County Extension Agent  
Hays County

*"For in the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."* - Baba Dioun, Central African naturalist.



## March 13<sup>th</sup> Program

This month we will cover geology and watersheds plus some extra. I hope we will have more time this month to answer questions and identify a few plants. Knowing the geology of our location helps us realize why the blackland prairie is here, our diversity of plants and animals and give us a greater

appreciation of the uniqueness of Hays County. One of the professors at SWT will be here and then I will discuss the rainfall simulator and will encourage your assistance in using this model in teaching situations. Then we will look at volunteer opportunities, identify some plants and Joe Piazza will talk about the Water Watch program he attended and is now helping with.

I hope those assigned have done their road kill watch and that you have tried out the plant presses. We have put together notebooks for the soil information you turned in so you can get to work on a master plan for your home. Also I will have some plants for you to identify. **You are welcome to bring some from your place to ID as well.**

## Spring Wildflower Days - April 7-8.

The Master Naturalists will be helping at the LBJ Wildflower Center on April 7-8, 2001 answering questions and providing information. We will use

the rainfall simulator to help teach good land stewardship. We need your help on part of both days. This is a great time to learn while helping others. Plan to help if you can. You can also volunteer to help at the Wildflower Center on a regular basis, and this would meet volunteer requirements.

## Projects Needing Help.

1. paired plots at John Knox Camp, Jacobs Well and Elm Grove Elementary. The job would include bending and bolting together 4 metal strips that are 12" tall and 10 feet long. Connect a PVC pipe to one end and connecting to water trough. Then planting some grass plants in one and not the other.

Water runoff will then be measured on each. I would like to do the one at **Jacob's Well on March 7 or 8.**

Plans are still to install a rainwater harvesting system at Elm Grove Elementary in

March. We need to level foundation, connect gutter to 1000-1500 gallon storage tank and hook up water gage and facets. Then we need to plant some potted plants for attracting butterflies.

3. Help is needed to trim up some mesquite trees to encourage them to grow tall and straight. I have pruners, we need to set a date and meet at the Freeman Ranch to measure height of trees before pruning.

5. The San Marcos Interpretive Center needs plots planted in native grasses. I will let you know the date at meeting time.

6. If we have a welder that could help build a seed planter to pull behind a 4-wheeler, I could use some help.

7. Prepare spot and connect water storage tank at DeZavala Grade School in San Marcos to water butterfly garden area.

8. Plant seeds using hay bales as mulch. We will roll out a large round bale after scattering seed. Probably at 2 locations.

*"In dire necessity somebody might write another Illiad, or paint an 'Angelus.' but fashion a goose? ...If then, we can live without goose music, we may as well do away with stars, or sunsets, or Illiads. But the point is that we would be fools to do away with any of them." - Aldo Leopold.*

#### Browse Plants.

"Browse" is a fairly nebulous term, it refers to the leaves and tender twigs of woody plants which are

used as forage. Browse comprises from 10 to 65 percent of ruminants' diets in the Edwards Plateau. Deer and goats tend to use browse the most, but other livestock will spend considerable time browsing. Especially during dry times. Crude protein content of browse plants usually varies from 11 to 20 percent, with digestibilities ranging from 45 to 70 percent, all in all more nutritious than most grasses. In the Edwards plateau the most palatable include Kidneywood, white honeysuckle, mountain mahogany and Texas oak. Least preferred include mesquite, agarito, pricklyash, and juniper.

#### Thought of a class mascot?

(As a Reminder) **Make-up Missed Meetings.** All meetings must be attended or made up to graduate and receive your prize. Also all will be required to do 40 hours of volunteer duty **to reach full metamorphosis and earn your wings. Volunteer hours can start now** or as you have projects you would like to work on. It would be great if you had your volunteer hours and advanced training in by this time next year. (But it is not required till one year after completion of the course.)

**Video copies of Grass ID.** I have 3 sets of about 50 grasses and need someone to write down key identification points of the grasses as they view the tapes. Let me know if you would be interested.

These are great tapes.

*"All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today." - Chinese Proverb*

#### Dates:

**March 30-31:** Texas Watch meeting of the Monitors, Aquarena Springs.

**March 31:** Burnett Home and Garden Show, Burnett

**April 7-8:** LBJ Wildflower Center Gardening Festival

**April 18-19:** Role of Predator Control in Game Management, Kerrville

**April 21:** San Marcos Home and Garden Show

**April 29-May 6:** Texas Soil and Water Stewardship Week

**June 1-3:** Texas Prairies and Savannahs Conference, Glen Rose.





**Please help us by working March 16-18, 2001.  
Sports Afield Texas Sportsman's Fair Volunteer Application**

Volunteer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**You may circle more than one.**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Have you worked at the 1997, 1998 or 1999 Sportsman's Showcase?              | Y | N |
| If "No," have you attended a Showcase in the past?                           | Y | N |
| Will you be able to work March 16 (Friday) - all afternoon?                  | Y | N |
| Will you be able to work March 17 (Saturday) - all day?                      | Y | N |
| Will you be able to work March 18 (Sunday) - all day?                        | Y | N |
| Will you be able to attend a volunteer appreciation day March 10 (Saturday)? | Y | N |

If you have worked at previous Showcase, please tell us when and what village or area you worked in. Also, would you like to work in this area again?

List three villages/areas (Shooting, Fishing, Archery, Off-Road, ATV, Hunting Dogs, Wildlife Art, or Conservation) in which you would like to work, starting with your first choice.\* (See back of this form for description.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know what kind of experience you have in the above and why you would like to work there.

I understand that I am committing to work the above mentioned day(s) as a volunteer for Sports Afield Texas Sportsman's Fair. I will not be compensated monetarily. Instead I will receive a Sports Afield Texas Sportsman's Fair T-shirt, lunch(es) and other items deemed necessary and appropriate by Sports Afield, NSSA/NSCA, and the Texas Wildlife Association. I also understand that the purpose of this event is to promote family involvement, safety and the enjoyment of shooting sports and outdoor activities.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian of minors \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 name(s) and age(s) of minors \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency please contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to applicant \_\_\_\_\_

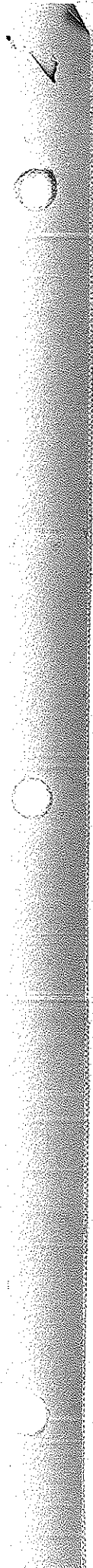
Please list allergies/medical conditions we need to be aware of \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return by February 12, 2001, to:  
 Texas Wildlife Association • 401 Isom Rd., Suite 237 • San Antonio, TX 78216

For more info: (800) 839-9453 or (210) 826-2904 – FAX (210) 826-4933

**Thank You!**

\* Requests will normally be granted on a first-come, first-served basis. The number of volunteers assigned to each village will be "as needed."  
 **YES! I would also be interested in serving as a volunteer for other TWA sponsored events.**



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