



# Texas Master Naturalist Newsletter

Volume II No. VIII

May 2000

**Class Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2000**

**San Marcos Interpretive Center on I-35**

**Topics:**

- ★Walking Bird Tour (wear outdoors clothes and walking shoes)
- ★Meal - (Cattfish) After Birding and plant tour at Extension Office
- ★Rest of Program
- ★ Road kill Survey & Observations - Billy Kniffen, Delbert Bassett

**Billy Kniffen**  
County Extension Agent  
Hays County

*"Whether man is disposed to yield to nature or to oppose her, he cannot do without a correct understanding of her language."*  
- Jean Rostand.

### May's program and directions:

We will meet first at the new interpretive center in San Marcos at 6:00 p.m..It is located on the west service road at Riverside Drive.

**Directions:** coming from the north - take the 204B exit and stay on access road going south. It will be on your right just beside the access road at the Riverside Drive intersection. From the south take the 204A exit. Stay on east access road (going north) till you pass the San Marcos River then cross under the Interstate and go back south on the west access road. It will be on your right. Now don't get lost!

**Special Field Trip for You on May 27.** This will be your opportunity to see the Selah Ranch and learn from experts on making observations and "reading" the land. This will be a field exercise beside Madrone lake and a critical field day to help understand how all the

puzzle pieces go together in watershed, range and wildlife habitat management.

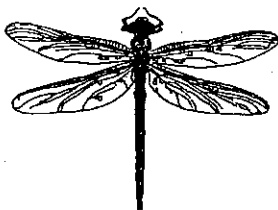
I can not wait to go. I plan on learning a lot in understanding range plants and studying ways to improve it. It is a beautiful location and we will have time to walk along the spring and identify plants and study good natural resource management. Please plan to attend.

### Rain simulator set up on the campus of SWT. The



Joe Piazza with rain simulator at SWT Earth Day.

Geography association was doing an Earth day Celebration. Joe Piazza worked there most of the day. Thanks Joe.





*Over 50 attended the Wildflower, Bug and Bird Tour at the John Knox camp. Thanks Chris Holmes, Jean and Joe Elizarde, and others who pitched in and helped. It was fun.*

### **Dates to remember:**

- May 8 - Rain Simulator at Water Training - San Marcos Grade School
- May 9 - Rain Simulator at Water Training - Bastrop
- May 9 - Master Naturalist Class
- May 13 - Planit Texas Ranch Field Day
- May 18 - Luling Foundation Ranch Tour
- May 18 - Native Plant Society Meeting
- May 20 - Texas Natural - Booth and display, San Marcos
- May 19-21 Fly Fishing Show - Aquarena
- May 27 - Class Field Trip - Bamberger's Selah Ranch
- June 26-28 - Natural Resource Camp - Wimberley

### **Thanks - April 19 - Decision Makers Water Conference**

Thanks to those who helped with the conference. About 250 attended and there were lots of excellent comments. (And great display).

**The San Marcos Chapter of the Native Plant Society** meets on the second Thursday of the month (May 18) at Dan Hosage's Madrone Nursery off Lime Kiln Road. He has one of the best native plant nurseries around. He is primarily wholesale and grows all his own plants. This will be excellent for learning about starting and growing a world of native plants.

**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.



*Delbert Bassett and Billy Kniffen with Presidents Award from the National Wildlife Institute to the Texas Master Naturalist's program.*

**Rainfall measurements-** Mary Fulton is collecting this information. E-mail your collections to her (or bring them to class with you. This too will

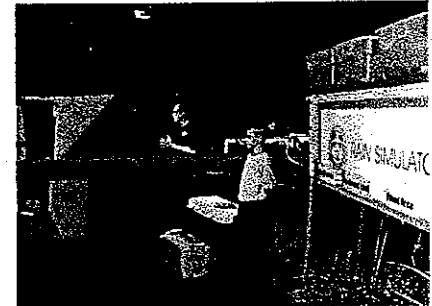
give us a better indication of rainfall patterns, localized droughts and flooding.

**Area Coordinators:** there



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

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.



*I got to do a presentation with the TP&W webcast, sent out to over 11,000 kids. I was on twice to demonstrate the rain simulator. There were over 1,300 questions posted on the chat room. I'll tell you more Tuesday.*

**See you Tuesday.**