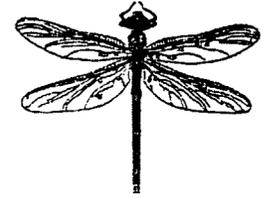


# Hays County Master Naturalists NEWSLETTER



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

November, 2006

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

### *2006 Class Graduation*

Join the Graduation Celebration for "The Falcons" Class of 2006, Hays County Master Naturalists, Friday November 10, 2006, at Pioneer Town, Wimberley.

- 6:00 Social Hour and Program in the Opera House
- 7:15 Dinner at the Silver Spoon Café
- \$10 a person; alternative beverages welcome.
- Western wear optional.

RSVP to Susan Nenney ([Secretary@haysmn.org](mailto:Secretary@haysmn.org)) by Friday Nov 3. Please designate BEEF or CHICKEN preference for each reservation.

If you make a dinner reservation and are unable to attend, you are expected to pay for your unclaimed meals.

Directions to Pioneer Town:

In Wimberley, at the light at RR 12 and River Road, turn onto River Road (only 1 way to turn -west). Travel 1.2 miles along River Road and the Blanco River. At 7-A Ranch Resort, turn right onto Wayside Drive. Pass 7-A Ranch and turn left into the parking lot for Pioneer Town (335 Wayside Drive). Stroll the streets of the Old West to the Opera House.

Should be great fun.

Susan Nenney, Secretary 

### *Gala Chapter Meeting and Party*

NOVEMBER 30, 2006,  
7:00 TO 10:00 PM, WIMBERLEY  
COMMUNITY CENTER.

We will serve a catered RSVP dinner and present our service pins and Chapter Awards. We may also have some live music if musicians are available and we can work it in. 

## HAYS COUNTY MASTER NATURALISTS

<b>President</b>	Tom Watson
<b>Vice President</b>	Dale Shively
<b>Secretary</b>	Susan Nenney
<b>Treasurer</b>	Winifred Simon
<b>Training Committee</b>	Nancy Turner
<b>Records Committee</b>	Judy Telford
<b>State Advisory Board</b>	Walt Krudop
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<b>TP&amp;WD Rep</b>	Lee Ann Linam

## THE PRESIDENTIAL VIEW

Greetings, fellow Master Naturalists and Graduates,

The holiday season approaches and beckons the closing moments of the 2006 terms of the Board of Directors which expire in November. The Board is planning a Chapter meeting for the last day of this month in which we will elect a new Board to serve us for the coming year. As we close out the year, your Board is looking back and celebrating your many accomplishments for 2006 at the Wimberley Community Center with a Gala Party in addition to the election. The Board will take this opportunity to recognize the many dedicated volunteers in our Chapter who have contributed to the Master Naturalist mission and acknowledge by passing out service pins and our own Chapter service recognition awards. The service pins are designated by our state program and recognizes service levels of 250, 500, 1000, 2500, and 5000 hours. Our Chapter awards will be based on service to our Chapter in its endeavors to execute the state MN program. Our Awards Committee, consisting of Dale, Susan, Nancy, and Judy, worked hard to select our awardees. Judy, in addition, has been working to compile the list of re-certifications and service hour pins and to order the service pins for our Gala event.

In celebrating your accomplishments, the Board and I would like to seize the occasion to celebrate the progress that our team has made toward serving the objectives and mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program. At the beginning of our terms we set some lofty goals and instituted some changes to emphasize that our organization was all about recruiting volunteers (i.e., a corps) to educate the public through outreach activities and about volunteering for the many worthy projects that you have volunteered for. Those volunteers were needed to get the MN message out to the public, but our Chapter had one of the lowest retention rates in the state program. We recognized that graduates from our training classes were at best barely aware that there was an organization beyond the training committee nor had much of a concept of what that organization was about nor that they were making a commitment beyond training. In other words the cart seemed to be before the horse. We knew that changes were needed so we defined our objectives and set out some goals that we wanted to accomplish in this administration. At the risk of redundancy, I remind you our goals were: to increase retention of active members, to improve programming for our membership, and to raise visibility of our Chapter to our trainees and the general public. In striving for these goals we felt that we could retain more members, increase the amount of time that members spent in volunteer activities, expand our offerings to the public, recruit more volunteers to help us spread the word for conservation of natural resources, and make the MN experience more exciting, informative, and fun for our membership,

I am happy to report to you that we have made significant progress with your help toward meeting those goals. While we will not be able to measure retention until next year, I feel that we will see an increase in the number of active members as a result of our endeavors and with the added help of our telephone committee, Dixie Camp, who graciously telephoned our inactive members to invite them back into the fold. In terms of our volunteer hours, the full results will not be completely known until the results are reported to the state in December. However, by comparison with this time last year our Chapter's volunteer hours have increased by over 600 hours. Our outreach to the general public has increased more than 40%, and we have had more

speakers, parades, workshops, and workdays than any time in the history of our Chapter. So I am pleased with the progress of the Chapter and your efforts to make us better.

As you know, I am stepping down as President of the Board as I promised all of you last November when I assumed that role. I will be moving on to commitments made long ago before there was a Chapter in Hays County. I will continue to serve on the Board as Past President and will serve the new Board as I am able. Dale Shively, our Vice President at present, has agreed to run for President which means that the Board has a full slate of officers to present to you for a vote at the final Chapter meeting in November: Dale Shively, President; Dixie Camp, Vice President, Susan Nenney, Secretary; and Winifred Simon, Treasurer. I highly recommend this slate for your approval at that meeting.

The privilege of serving as your President has had many rewards, the most enjoyable of which was the opportunity to get to know the many wonderfully talented and interesting people that comprise our membership. I urge you to step up and support the new Board with the kind of enthusiasm that you have shown to me.

Thank you for all that you do for the Earth, for your neighbors, and for your chapter.

Tom. 

## CHAPTER NEWS

### *Election of HCMN Officers*

The Chapter will conduct the election and installation of officers for 2007 on November 30 during our Gala meeting at the Wimberley Community Center.

The Nominating Committee, headed by Tom Watson, submits the following slate of nominees:

President	Dale Shively
Vice President	Dixie Camp
Secretary	Susan Nenney
Treasurer	Winifred Simon

In addition to the Nominating Committee's slate, nominations will be taken from the floor

at the November meeting. The vote for the new officers will proceed as soon as all nominations are received, in accordance with our bylaws. 🦋

### *Benefit for Abby Linam*

Abby Linam, daughter of our TP&WD Representative Lee Ann Linam and Gordon Linam, was riding a four-wheeler with her friend Taylor Schade in Wimberley when a car struck them. After being hospitalized in ICU for basal skull fractures, Abby is now in San Antonio for physical rehabilitation after neurological damage. She was able to stand on October 30. She has begun swallowing exercises and is now able to swallow real food.

Friends and supporters of the Linam and Schade families at Hill Country Christian School have organized a fund-raising benefit to underwrite medical expenses and rehabilitation for the two girls. The benefit at the Wimberley Community Center and Brookshire Bros. Parking lot on November 12 from 11:am to 6:00 pm features food, live music, and auctions. Donations of new or used auction items are welcome.

For further information about Abby's progress or the November 12 event, please check <http://www.hillcountryschool.net/index.php?>

### *Statewide Meeting*

The 7th Annual Statewide Master Naturalist Meeting at Mo-Ranch on October 20 to 22 was well attended with over 140 MNs participating. The Hays County Chapter was represented by Shirley Danforth, Ginger and LaRay Geist, Cindy and Walt Krudop, Susan Nenney, Joe Piazza, and Winifred Simon.

The weather was fabulous and the programs were generally excellent. The most talked about were the weekend-long Rainwater Harvesting class headed by Billy Kniffen and the various aspects of Wildfire History and Preparedness led by the Texas Forest Service.

This annual meeting allows MN's from all parts of the state to exchange ideas, projects and experiences and should be attended by all MN's at least once. By attending, we can also

learn more about the MN program in its entirety and how our chapter fits into the bigger picture.

-- Winifred Simon 🦋

### *Land Stewardship Field Day*

The Land Stewardship Field Day, October 28, went very well as a result of your efforts. I know that I speak for the Board in extending our appreciation for all that you and your spouses did in support of this event. With folks like you behind our organization we can be successful in all our endeavors.

Please report your volunteer time to Judy and charge the time to project #402 Texas Cooperative Extension with the activity designated as Indirect Outreach. You may count your travel time and the time spent in and driving to and from planning meetings as well. You may count the time spent in listening to the speakers as advanced training in addition if you so desire.

I apologize for any confusions that may have arisen but such often occurs when there are multiple coordinators working an event.

Thank you very much for all that you do for your Chapter and our cause,

Tom 🦋

### *Reporting Reminder*

The Board of Directors will present service pins at our November 30<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting in Wimberley. The Board of Directors will also recognize significant service to the Chapter and to the public at that meeting, in addition to conducting elections for next year's board.

To receive your service pins on time. Judy Telford must have your total volunteer hours by **November 13<sup>th</sup>** in order to process reports and place the order. If you have not yet sent in your hours, please report them now and keep them updated until the deadline. We appreciate your cooperation.

You may email your reports to Judy at [records@haysmn.org](mailto:records@haysmn.org) or send them by US Mail to 2303 E. McCarty, San Marcos, TX 78666.

🦋

### **CALENDAR**

(The dragonfly logo 🦋 identifies official HCMN events)

✧ November 10. **2006 Class Graduation** – Ch 2, Bryan Davis. Silver Spoon Café, Pioneer Town at 7-A Ranch, Wimberley. Dinner, 7:00 pm. \$8.00 per person. November 1 is the deadline to contact Susan Nenny for reservations. Please save this date and act now.

November 11-12: **Citizen Forester workshop** hosted by TreeFolks, Inc. See below.

✧ November 30, **Chapter Business Meeting** and Awards, Election and Installation of 2007 Officers. Wimberley Community Center. Please save this date for our gala event and watch this space for details.

✧ December 10. **Regional Master Naturalist Christmas Party** at Cibolo Nature Centre in Boerne, hosted by Alamo Chapter. Please watch this space for more details

✧ December 20. **Joint Master Naturalist and Master Gardener Christmas Party**, Extension Office, San Marcos. 6:30 pm. MGs will bring a meat and MNs can bring a meat. All members attending should bring: A-L salad or vegetable, M-Z bring a desert. If everyone will bring a unisex gift of \$5-\$10 value, we can put them on the table and everyone will pick one.

✧ February 2 to 4, 2007. **Birds of a Feather.** Texas Master Naturalist 2007 Campout at Brazos Bend State Park, Needville, Texas. More info below.



## ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### *Hill Country Foundation*

The Austin Water Utilities/Wildlands Conservation Division has some upcoming trainings that qualify for MN Advanced Training. These events on Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL) are offered by their partner, the Hill Country Foundation (HCF) for the Wildland Conservation Division (WCD).

The Hill Country Foundation will conduct the two-day training workshops to assist the WQPL in their efforts to provide conservation education as well as volunteer activities for the

citizens of Austin and the surrounding areas. When volunteers have completed the training, the WCD program will manage and direct the activities of trained volunteers.

Three workshops will be offered this fall -- one interpretive guide training and two trainings for land stewards -- as detailed below. The city is seeking individuals who are experienced and comfortable in a wildland setting, either through participation in Wildland volunteer or other activities. Each of these trainings is a two-day commitment over a single weekend, 7-8 hours on Saturday and 4-5 hours on Sunday afternoon.

**Tour Guide Training** -- November 4 & 5, 2006

Building upon their previous success, HCF will conduct this training on one of the WQPL properties. Volunteers will be trained to lead an interpretive hiking tour in a wildland setting without facilities. The hike will be classified as challenging due to the length of the route and the sloped terrain.

**Land Steward Training** -- December 2 & 3, 2006 and again on January 13 & 14, 2007 This training will be conducted on a WQPL tract where classroom and hands-on field training will be provided. Training activities will include plant identification, seed collecting, reseeding, cave clean outs, tree planting, and others. Volunteers will be trained to lead groups of volunteers in performing some of the tasks mentioned on a recurring basis and with minimal supervision.

For more information on trainings and how to apply, please contact Mary Gay Maxwell at 472-5958, or by email at [marygaymaxwell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marygaymaxwell@sbcglobal.net).

### *Citizen Forester Workshop*

Registration has opened for the fall Citizen Forester workshop hosted by TreeFolks, Inc. on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Site: TreeFolks at Hornesby Bend, 10803 Platt Ln. 78725. We'll provide some refreshments.

Learn about urban tree care from an array of professional arborists, foresters, and landscape designers. Workshop topics include tree biology and identification, pruning and planting techniques, the role of trees in landscape design, and how to climb trees safely

with the right equipment. An official TreeFolks' Citizen Forester Certificate is awarded to participants who attend the two-day workshop and complete a ten hour volunteer service component.

Learn why, when, where and how to properly plant and irrigate trees to ensure long term survival. How to design your landscape around your trees. How to prune for safety and strength, reducing potential future problems including oak wilt. And learn the safe way to climb trees for fun or for light pruning.

**Cost:** \$45 (NON-MEMBERS) / \$36 (MEMBERS).

For more information contact Paul Domaruk with TreeFolks at 512-443-5323 or paul@treefolks.org

### *Birds of a Feather*

#### TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST 2007 CAMPOUT FEBRUARY 2-4, 2007, AT BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK

- Advanced Training Opportunities
- Presentations by
- **Birds** by Dennis Jones, Assistant Park Director, Brazos Bend State Park
- **Spring Migration** by Scott Keister, Texas Master Naturalist and educator
- **Raptors: Bringing in the Hawks** by Dick Benoit, President, Galveston Bay Master Naturalists

Pre-registration is required. Registration is limited to first-come/first-served. Spouses are welcome. No pets. \$25 per person for Saturday only (no camping); or \$40 for overnight Friday and Saturday in the Dining Hall. For more information and reservations, please contact Sarah Smith [Sarahbethsmith1@aol.com](mailto:Sarahbethsmith1@aol.com) or Becky Bailey at (281) 320-8443.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### *Blue Hole Project Proposal*

Sponsor: Wimberley Parks & Recreation Board;  
512-847-1231  
Contact: Dell Hood, [hood@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:hood@alumni.utexas.net)  
Activity: Removing non-native plants from Blue Hole Regional Park, Wimberley  
Starting date: August 1, 2006  
End date: indefinite

Activity type: Habitat restoration

#### **Description:**

Blue Hole Regional Park, Wimberley, is owned by the Village of Wimberley. Large areas of the park are planned to remain natural and undeveloped. Non-native plants will be removed wherever possible in order to ensure the best possible diversity of Central Texas native plant species and to improve habitat for native fauna.

#### **Comments:**

Our immediate priority is removing an invasive plant, Asian marshweed (*Limnophila sessiliflora*), from Cypress Creek in the area of the riffles immediately downstream from the swimming area of Blue Hole. Minette Marr will give instruction on the procedure for removing the plant so as to prevent its further spread.

The initial project complements the Invader program to remove invasive species. Next year, we may work on trails or plan and plant habitat. After that, the park will need docents.

### *Margaret's Nature Trail, White Wings Ranch*

#### HCMN PROJECT # 601

You may remember that last summer off RR12 near San Marcos a snake fatally bit a woman from Wimberley. It turns out that she was both a member of the Unity Church and very much a nature enthusiast. She bequeathed a small amount to the church for the creation of a nature trail on the 43 acres that is owned by the church. The money is to go for signage, a tri-fold brochure, interpretive material etc.

Pastor Mindy Audlin and her husband Shawn have made great headway in the actual layout and construction of the trail. Joe Piazza, myself and a few other Master Naturalists went for a visit and were well impressed with the progress thus far. They have asked for our help to complete the construction of the trail and ID the plants along the route. They have also asked us to help in the design and writing of an interpretive tri-fold brochure about the trail and Hill Country ecosystems. We have talked about planting a native grass garden and a butterfly garden. Once the trail is complete, besides helping maintain it, we are to be available to give guided walks to interested folks.

Unity Church has learned from their insurance company that they can allow non-members access

to the trail and they want to open it up to the public for educational and outreach programs. This would include school groups and scouting groups as well.

The area where the trail has been located is very diverse, going from grasslands dotted with various trees and forbs to a lovely riparian zone with the associated flora and fauna. Its length is about 1/2 mile, with spots to sit and enjoy views along the way.

-- Jamie Kinscherff, HCMN Contact;  
[Jamie@kinscherff.com](mailto:Jamie@kinscherff.com) ✨

### *Wildscape Garden, San Marcos Nature Center*

#### HCMN PROJECT #405

The sunflowers have withered, ruellias are bloomed out, but Gulf Fritillary caterpillars have not yet eradicated the passion vines. Blue mistflowers continue to attract Monarchs and Queens, and lantana cultivars still attract Monarchs and other butterflies.

Modest fall rains have been sufficient for bluebonnet seeds to sprout and take hold.

As usual, there's no stopping invasive plants and bermudagrass. Elm and pecan seedlings pop up regularly. We have to pull up these aggressive invaders to control them.

We welcome contributions of seeds or seedlings of annual and perennial wildflowers to improve the diversity of our garden. ✨

### *Jacob's Well Nature Centre*

#### HCMN PROJECT #603

HCMN Project Coordinator:

Marion Couvillion, [marion@hcmn.org](mailto:marion@hcmn.org)  
512-858-1609

Sponsor Contact: David Baker,  
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association  
P. O. Box 2534, Wimberley, TX 78676.  
512-847-1582 512-847-1582

Starting date: 4/1/2006; end date: open

The first HCMN work Day at Jacob's Well was July 15.

Project Description: The project will help the Wimberley Valley Watershed Assoc. plan and restore the Jacob's Well surroundings to a natural condition

using native plants, conduct nature tours, provide education classes at the completed nature center, help with trail building, plant native plants, etc.

Activity type: Habitat restoration, Restoration and Management planning, Direct outreach, Indirect outreach, Trail construction and maintenance, Data collection, Native plants maintenance

Comments: This will be a great opportunity to become associated with a nature center where we can apply our Master Naturalist training to benefit the public. ✨

### *Tree Folks Project Proposal*

#### HCMN PROJECT # 605

NAME OF ACTIVITY OR EVENT: Habitat Restoration; Planting Trees with Tree Folks

STARTING DATE: January 1, 2006.

ENDING DATE: to be determined

TYPE OF ACTIVITY:

TreeFolks restores the urban forest of Central Texas through tree planting, education and community partnerships. They invite businesses, schools, government, community groups and individuals to join in creating a healthier environment and enhancing the quality of urban life. Since its inception in 1989, TreeFolks has planted tens of thousands of trees in Austin and Central Texas at schools, Retirement homes, Housing Projects, Parks, Green Spaces, Rights of Way and Medians, Neighborhoods, Preserves, Green Belts

SPONSOR: Tree Folks; PO Box 704; Austin, Texas 78767. TreeFolks, Inc. is a 501C3 non-profit corporation.

NAME OF CONTACT: Scott Harris,  
Executive Director; 512-443-LEAF,  
[admin@treefolks.org](mailto:admin@treefolks.org)

HCMN CONTACT: Marion Couvillion, 512-858-1609; PO Box 872; Dripping Springs, TX;  
[marion.hcmn@gmail.com](mailto:marion.hcmn@gmail.com)

HCMN COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THIS PROJECT: volunteers needed

Project Description:

Tree Folks sponsors several environmental projects:

City Shade is a large scale, high-impact and highly organized planting program for public parks and other public lands. This program gives citizens opportunities to participate in

public tree plantings to improve their communities.

CommuniTrees is a dynamic and effective grant program that offers trees to eligible individuals or groups planning tree planting projects on publicly accessible land. Since 1992, CommuniTrees has provided trees to dozens of schools and institutions as well as educational programs and materials for participants and expertise for the long term care of the trees.

TreeFolks provides education through speakers, fun, organized workshops and expertly crafted and beautifully illustrated publications that greatly expand our service beyond simply planting trees.

Every October TreeFolks hosts Sapling Days, distributing seedlings every week in October.

The Urban Orchard Project places fruit and nut trees in public spaces. Program participants take part in a training program that teaches them the basics of organic fruit and nut tree care, pruning and harvesting techniques. The **NeighborWoods** Program is designed to plant trees to save energy and to combat the Heat Island Effect. Temperatures in urban centers are 6-15 degrees hotter than the surrounding countryside. Planting trees in positions to shade pavement is a highly effective and economical way to combat that effect. Every year, with sponsorship and support from Austin Energy, TreeFolks places over 4000 of these "street trees." 🌿

### *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.

NAME OF GROUP: The Nature Conservancy

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

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

### **State News**

### *Texas Monarch Watch*

Monarchs are on the Move Down the Central Flyway!

Randy Davis, a long time monarch watcher in the Abilene area called to report Monarchs "filling the sky for miles" on October 9. Earlier, tens of thousands were reported from Sweetwater. Both locations are in the heart of the Central Flyway (see map Fall Monarch Migration Map Through Texas <http://texasento.net/MonarchMigration.htm>).

These are the most significant reports I know of for Texas so far. Please report any large movements of monarchs that you witness to:

<mailto:mike.quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us>

#### **Recap of the Spring and Fall 2006 Monarch Migration**

In the spring of 2006, we had a great first generation monarchs moving north through Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas from late April through early June. Dr. Chip Taylor, who runs the Monarch Watch project at the Univ. of Kansas, reported that "the size of the first generation was certainly the highest in the 14 years I've been following the spring migration." Late May saw an unprecedented number of first monarchs reported to Journey North.

Favorable conditions for monarch adults and caterpillars continued as the butterfly spread up through succeeding generations across eastern North America. Many people from across northeastern U.S. and southeastern Canada reported record numbers of monarchs during the annual Butterfly Counts held from late June through early July.

Everything was looking great going into the "critical egg laying period" which produces the south-bound monarchs now passing through Texas. Chip Taylor defines this period as roughly the last two weeks of July and the first week of August. However, developmental conditions for the migratory or third generation were not uniformly favorable throughout the summer breeding grounds. Monarch reports during the critical egg laying period have been a little less glowing, particularly in the upper Midwest, one of the main areas of origin for the over-wintering monarchs. This down turn may have been due to the drought in that area.

However, northeastern North America continued to experience favorable weather conditions, but the monarchs from that region have further to travel to reach the overwintering grounds in central Mexico, and thus the northeast usually isn't as large a contributor to the over-wintering population as is the upper Midwest.

Given the near record numbers of monarchs widely reported during the spring and summer, I was hoping to see the Central Flyway filled with monarchs this fall. That hasn't happened as yet. Insect populations can and do fluctuate extensively from year to year, but can also vary greatly from season to season. Many of those observing monarchs this summer were fortunate to witness this butterfly at near peak population levels. However, given the apparent modest reproduction in the upper Midwest plus the drought conditions through much of Texas, has led Chip Taylor to predict in August that the overwintering population would occupy approximately 5.5 hectares when measured in December. This is about a hectare below the overwintering average for the last nine years. Monarch Overwintering Population Estimates 1994-2005 - JNorth <http://tinyurl.com/rxugf>

If the spring and summer trends had continued, we would probably now be seeing record numbers of south-bound monarchs from I-35 west to Midland...

### **New Informal Monarch Watch Email Group** for Texas

There are several popular (sometimes too popular) email lists for the discussion of the butterflies of Texas and for monarchs in general, but as there was no list just for Texas monarchs, I thought I would initiate one. It would serve as a searchable repository for significant Texas monarch observations. However, all manner of monarch and milkweed reports would be welcomed.

TX-Monarchs - about the list : <http://groups-beta.google.com/group/TX-Monarchs/about>  
To Subscribe: <http://tinyurl.com/zthkb>

My ulterior motive for starting this list is that it might serve as a way for the large number of Texas Monarch Watch volunteers I communicate with to update their frequently changing email addresses on their own.

### **Other Texas Butterfly News**

American Snout butterflies had not one, but two population explosions across southern Texas this summer and fall. The second "migration" began with a boom in early October and is still ongoing.

On October 3, 2006, a flood of Snout reports were posted to the TX-Butterfly listserv from across the following counties: Bexar, Bee, Dewitt, Goliad, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson. Since then, they've been reported in huge numbers in Bandera, Bastrop, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties.

The second Snout population explosion has, so far, only generated a smattering of media reports (from Bandera, Kerrville, and San Antonio that I know of). The first Snout swarm (which took off in mid-July) touched off something of a media frenzy in local, national, and even international print and broadcast outlets. The Snout media blitz started when Anton Caputo of the San Antonio Express-News wrote a front-page article on Jul 21, 2006 that The Associated Press distributed widely the next day. The New York Times ran a story a few days later, then NBC Nightly News and even the BBC got in on the action!

I compiled and posted snippets of most of the media reports here:  
[http://texasento.net/snout\\_press.htm](http://texasento.net/snout_press.htm)

Here's my work in progress snout biology webpage:  
Snout Migration Ecology:  
<http://texasento.net/snout.htm>

Thanks all for your continued support, data collection and reporting!

Mike Quinn  
Invertebrate Biologist, Rare & Nongame Species,  
Texas Parks & Wildlife  
M: 3000 I-35 South, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78704  
P: 512-912-7059, C: 512-577-0250  
[mike.quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:mike.quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us)  
Texas Entomology: [www.TexasEnto.net](http://www.TexasEnto.net)  
I can be reached Toll Free at: 800-792-1112 ext 7059

### **Local News**

#### *Water Issues Survey*

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT'S SURVEY

Because of your experience as a resident of south-central Texas, I am asking for your participation in a study of how the general public learns or hears about issues related to water resources.

I am asking participants to answer a questionnaire that will take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

Your responses will be confidential. I hope that you will agree to participate in this study; your help and that of other participants is essential to the study's success. Please use this link to begin the survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=539442196389>.

Thank you for your participation.

### **Risk Communication Concerning Water Issues in South-central Texas**

Karen Bartell, Ph.D. Candidate  
512-894-0105, Days. Cell: 512-585-9396  
R. Denise Blanchard, Ph.D. Department of Geography and James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research  
Texas State University – San Marcos. ✈

### ***White-tailed Deer Harvest Project***

Howdy!

My name is Jennifer Garrett and I am a graduate student in the Wildlife And Fisheries Sciences Department at Texas A&M University, and I need your help.

For my thesis project I have created a white-tailed deer harvest model for the use of interested landowners and land managers. The model incorporates field data that is currently available or easily collected.

Unlike other population models specific for white-tailed deer, my simulation model has an easy to use interface and is available on-line via the Internet. Users simply answer questions about the land they are managing and then evaluate different harvest plans to reach their management goals.

The next part of my project involves the evaluation of the simulation model and website. This is where I need your help.

Please visit my website and evaluate it for me. The website address is:

<http://deer.tamu.edu/deersim>.

To view the website you will need to create an

account. I will use the e-mail address you provide to send you an invitation to participate in an online survey that will be used to evaluate my project.

As an incentive for filling out the survey we will be giving away a laser rangefinder, GPS unit, compass, and a Boone & Crockett scoring kit. The four lucky participants will be chosen by lottery.

Thank you in advance for your time. Your opinions will help us better the simulation model and website so that we may have a product that better serves you.

If you have any questions about this project please contact me at [jennifer-n-garrett@tamu.edu](mailto:jennifer-n-garrett@tamu.edu).

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Garrett

### ***Wimberley Butterfly Watch***

A second outbreak of American Snouts (*Libytheana carinenta*) began on October 3. Their numbers increased until they were continuously streaming south in somewhat lower numbers than in August. Their numbers have declined since October 15, but they are still common in Wimberley.

The numbers of migrating Monarchs increased dramatically on October 15. Southern Dogfaces are also moving through in greater numbers.

Common Mestras remained relatively more common and widespread than in previous years until October 15.

We observed three White Peacocks for the first time in Wimberley on October 8.

Butterflies observed in and around Wimberley during October include Giant Swallowtail, Pipevine Swallowtail, Black Swallowtail, Cloudless Sulphur, Alfalfa, Southern Dogface, Orange Sulphur, Large Orange Sulphur, Orange-Barred Sulphur, Little Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Dainty Sulphur, Lyside Sulphur, Gray Hairstreak, Juniper Hairstreak, Scrub Mallow Hairstreak, Great Purple Hairstreak, Ceraunus Blue, Reakirt's Blue, Buckeye, Painted Lady, American Lady, Red Admiral, Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Texan Crescent, Pearl Crescent, Tawny Emperor, American Snout, Monarch, Queen, Common Mestra, Cloudywing Skipper, Funereal Skipper, Juvenal's Duskywing, Horace's Duskywing, Checkered Skipper, Fiery Skipper, Southern Skipperling, Dun Skipper, Sachem, Eufala Skipper, Ocola Skipper, and other little brown skippers.

If you saw something we missed, please email your [editor@hcmn.org](mailto:editor@hcmn.org). 🦋

### ***Butterfly Calendar***

Melody Lytle of Austin has published a 14-month (11/06 – 12/07) calendar that is illustrated with photographs of native butterflies of Travis County. Butterflies ignore political boundaries, and the calendar is equally representative of butterflies in Hays County.

The calendar is free for downloading and printing. Pass it along and let Melody know if you find mistakes.

[http://home.austin.rr.com/dljokes/Lep\\_cal/index.htm](http://home.austin.rr.com/dljokes/Lep_cal/index.htm)

### ***River Rangers Report on Water Tests***

Rachel Sanborn, Volunteer Coordinator for the San Marcos River Rangers reports that a new group of high school students are being trained this month to do water testing on the San Marcos River, joining the 20 terrific volunteers already testing 29 sites. The Prairie Lea River Rangers are moving away, so that location and the 1977 crossing on the river are both needing volunteers.

The Rangers certainly perform a valuable service to the communities along the river, with a steady eye on the water quality in case anything goes wrong. They tested 230 times this year thus far, up from last year's 189. In 2005, they volunteered a total of 594 hours testing their sites on the river. Rachel can be reached at 512-754-7532.

-- San Marcos River Foundation

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#### ***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/>  
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