

Hays County Master Naturalists NEWSLETTER



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

October, 2007

OCTOBER EVENTS

Training Committee Workshop

OCTOBER 3, 6:30-9:30PM, WIMBERLEY
COMMUNITY CENTER

You are invited to participate in this facilitated discussion of the future structure of the training committee and program. The Board will then draft a proposal for membership consideration to be incorporated in the Chapter Operating Procedures. The goal is to define a process which allows the training program to proceed smoothly from year to year. If you cannot attend, give suggestions or comments to President Dale Shively (512.389.4686) or email at pres@haysmn.org

Executive Board Meeting

The HCMN Executive Board will meet at 6:30 pm, Wednesday, October 10 at the residence of Susan Nenney, 820 Red Hawk Road, Wimberley. ✨

Madrones Graduate

2007 HCMN Training Class Graduation

OCTOBER 26, 6:30 PM



Gala Chapter Meeting November 16

Awards and Installation of 2008 Executive Board. Wimberley Community Center. Social, 6:30 pm. Dinner, 7:00 pm. Program, 7:30 pm.

The price of the catered dinner is \$10.00 for members and guests. Reservations are required. Please contact Secretary Susan.



HAYS COUNTY MASTER NATURALISTS

Board of Directors

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

THE PRESIDENTIAL VIEW

As I sit here at Texas Parks and Wildlife Headquarters in Austin, all I can hear is the hum of generators and people hammering.

It must be EXPO time again! If you have never attended the TPWD EXPO, I would encourage you to do so on October 6-7. In fact, our Vice President Dixie Camp is still looking for any volunteers who may want to work at the Master Naturalist booth. There are typically 40,000 people who attend the 2-day event that is spread out on 40ac of TPWD Headquarters and McKinney State Park land. It is a great way to introduce anyone to outdoor activities. The Master Naturalist booth has always been active during this event, and for some members of the public, it is their first introduction to our organization.

Public relations (PR) are as important to this organization as water issues or land fragmentation. Through the efforts of many of our members, the public has been enlightened on a number of conservation issues such as

water conditions, grass identification, and general stewardship. I have had numerous requests on behalf of the Chapter for our members to participate in nature events, schools, and training sessions sponsored by other groups. PR will be the primary function of many of us in the future and I encourage all of you to help the Chapter continue to be recognized as the organization that really cares about our environment and prides itself in passing knowledge on to our community.

As we continue to wrap up this year, I remind everyone again that we are still entertaining nominations for a slate of officers for the 2008 Board of Directors. If you have the desire and time to work with a group of your cohorts that sets the direction of the Chapter, this may be your calling! Please contact me by phone (512-389-4686) or email (pres@haysmn.org) if you have any suggestions or comments. The deadline for putting the slate of officers out for review by our Chapter is October 15 (30 days before the general election and gala on November 16).

And as always, thank you for your support and please continue to make the Chapter all things environmental!

Dale ✨



Members in the News

HMNS Photographers Honored

Two Hays County Master Naturalists won awards in the third annual NatureScapes Photography Competition sponsored by the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance and the Hill Country Photography Club.

Art Arizpe, member of the 2007 Training Class won first place in the Hays County category. Herb Smith, our Webmaster, won an Award for Excellence, second place in the Scenery category, and Honorable Mention in the Hays County category.

The 57 award-winning photographs are on display until October 26 at the San Marcos Activity Center, 501 East Hopkins. ✨

2008 HCA Calendar Features Herb Smith's Photos

"Autumn Fog on the Blanco River" by Herb Smith has won the top prize in a contest to illustrate the 2008 Hill Country Alliance calendar.

"I walk along the banks of the Blanco almost every morning, often with my cameras and tripod," said HCMN Web Master Herb Smith of Wimberley. "It's always with the feeling that I'm very lucky to be in such a special place."

A second photo taken by Herb in Wimberley's River Oaks subdivision graces the cover of the calendar.

"McKinney Falls State Park at Twilight" won second prize honors for Matthew Johnson of Austin, and "Ruby-Throated Hummingbird" took third place for Matt Hicks of Cedar Park.

The three photos are among 12 chosen from more than 200 entries to illustrate the calendar. Other winning photos with the theme "Healthy Hill Country, Wealthy Region" feature wildflowers, open spaces and scenic roadways.

The photography contest, the first by the alliance, was announced in the spring as an effort to educate the public about the threats posed by urban sprawl, aquifer depletion and pollution in the region.

"We believe photography can capture what is of value and what is at stake," said Roy B. Mann, HCA board member and Austin landscape architect who chaired the contest.

In addition to spectacular photos, the calendar contains information about issues such as native landscaping, conservation, rainwater harvesting and water quality protection, along with Web site addresses for additional information. This inaugural edition of the HCA Calendar is dedicated to the memory of Lady Bird Johnson, whose advocacy of open space and wildflower protection is reflected on the calendar's pages.

The calendar sells for \$13.99 each at www.calendarclub.com. HCA offers discounts for large orders. See www.hillcountryalliance.org for ordering instructions.

HCA is a nonprofit organization representing a diverse membership of neighborhood groups, ranchers, landowners, environmentalists, groundwater districts, elected officials and developers. HCA's purpose is to raise public awareness and build community support around the need to preserve the natural resources and heritage of the Central Texas Hill Country. ✨

Correction

We reported in August that Jane Little had been appointed Mayor of Woodcreek. We regret that information was incorrect.

Jane was appointed to serve as a member of the Woodcreek City Council, not to the Mayor's position.

Gloria Whitehead, ran unopposed for the Woodcreek mayor's position in the May 2007 election. Jane Little was appointed in July 2007 to fill Whitehead's unexpired council term. ✂

CHAPTER NEWS

Calling all Hays County MNs,

We need a few good volunteers to staff the **Texas Master Naturalist** booth at **Texas Parks and Wildlife EXPO, October 6-7**. Dixie Camp is coordinating. She needs 24 people to help in six-hour shifts. Please RSVP directly to Dixie at dixie_camp@yahoo.com with all questions and to sign up. Thanks.

Susan, Secretary ✂

2008 Officers

It's time for our annual chapter elections. Officers are expected to take an active role in chapter life, attend meetings and assume responsibilities for job-specific duties as delineated in the Chapter Operating Handbook. If you are interested in holding office, please carefully review the job descriptions below and contact President Dale Shively (pres@haysmn.org) to have your name submitted to the Nominations Committee.

1. President

- a. Preside at all meetings of the Chapter.
- b. Serve as Chair of the Board of Directors.
- c. Appoint, subject to the Board's approval, committees and committee chairs.
- d. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- e. Sign all Board-approved documents that may be legally binding on the chapter.
- f. Co-sign checks with another officer in the absence of the Treasurer.
- g. Present an annual report at the last annual meeting of the chapter.

- h. Become Immediate Past President upon completion of term as President.
- i. Works with the membership chair to fulfill and submit the chapter's annual report to the state office annually.
- j. Votes when there is a tie.

2. Vice President.

- a. Assist the President and act for the President in his absence.
- b. Chair the Program Committee.

3. Secretary.

- a. Conduct all necessary chapter correspondence.
- b. Record, publish and preserve the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, General Membership meetings or special meetings.
- c. Furnish the minutes to all Board members and make them available to other Chapter members when requested.
- d. Keep a record of attendance at each meeting and whether a quorum is present.
- e. Maintain a hard copy file of all minutes and correspondence.
- f. Bring to each meeting the minute book, a copy of the bylaws, rules and policies, a list of all committees and a copy of the parliamentary authority adopted by the Chapter.
- g. Publish notice of membership meetings and field trips.

4. Treasurer

- a. Maintain budget and accounting records.
- b. Receive all dues and monies for the association and maintain them in a separate chapter bank account.
- c. Keep an account of all income, expenses, disbursements and other financial matters.
- d. Pay all bills upon receipt of a written statement or receipt. Treasurer or President and one other officer shall sign all checks, drafts or other instruments for payment of money or notes of the Chapter.
- e. Make a monthly report to the membership.
- f. Develop an annual budget for approval by the Board of Directors.
- g. Present the financial records for audit on or before the last day of the fiscal year.
- h. Submit all annual financial records and audits as required by law. ✂

HCMN Picture Trail

Walt Krudop has launched a new web site for displaying photography of HCMN activities and projects.

To VIEW photos on the site, just click on <http://www.PictureTrail.com/hayscntymn>. You can view all the photos but cannot edit or change anything. Anyone who knows the web address can access this.

The simple instructions to upload photos are:

- 1) Go to <http://www.picturetrail.com>
- 2) Then click on Member Login.
- 3) Once you log in, click on "Upload Pics".

The detailed but pretty straightforward instructions showing screenshots for each step is shown in the attached instruction document. For the Member Login, please check with Walt.



September 27 Membership Meeting

Andrew Backus, Board President of the Hays-Trinity Groundwater District introduced members of a team that studies groundwater resources and water supply issues in western Hays County.

Al Brown, a retired exploration manager at Exxon has used the available geological data and well data to analyze the structure, stratigraphy, and hydrogeology of Trinity Group aquifers in Hays County. These water-bearing strata include the Upper and Lower Glen Rose Limestone and the underlying Cow Creek Formation. Of these, the Lower Glen Rose is the principal aquifer.

Raymond Slate, formerly chief hydrologist for Texas, examined water well production records in the district. Slate concludes that Trinity aquifers in the district are capable of a sustained annual production of 14,000 acre-feet (4,562 million gallons) in drought-free years. The demand, however, was 16,368 acre-feet in 2000 and is projected to double by 2010. Where the difference will come from is the dilemma facing the district. At present, it comes from unsustainable over-production, rainwater harvesting, or imports from surface water supplies elsewhere. Texas property rights laws restrict regulation of groundwater use, and its conservation is problematic. The 2007 Texas Water Plan for water management strategy envisions drawing water from Canyon Lake, but other jurisdictions will compete with our district.

Reporting Reminder

Please email your reports of Volunteer Service hours and Advanced Training immediately to Judy Telford, preferably at 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)

- October 2. **2007 Class Meeting.** Urbanization & Land Fragmentation, Chapter 20. Volunteers as Teachers, Interpretation, Chapter 21.
- October 3, **Workshop for 2008 Training Committee.** 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Cypress Room, Wimberley Community Center.
- October 6-7. **WILDLIFE EXPO 2007,** TP&WD, Austin. More info below.

October 6. **Native Tree Workshop** and Plant Sale. San Marcos Nature Center, 430 Riverside Dr. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Registration fee \$25.00, includes 2 tree seedlings. Telephone Andrea Dravigne at 512-393-8400 by October 5.
- October 10. **HCMN Executive Board Meeting.** 6:30 pm, 820 Red Hawk Road, Wimberley.
- October 12-14. **TMN Statewide Annual Meeting,** San Antonio. More info below. **Click here** to download the Registration Packet.

October 12-14. **Fall Plant Sale & Gardening Festival.** LBJ Wildflower Center, Austin.
- October 13. **San Marcos River Cleanup.** 9:00 am – noon. Recreation Hall at City Park, San Marcos. For more info, call 512-393-8400.

October 13. **Blessing of the Animals,** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Emily Ann Theatre, Wimberley. More info below.

October 16. **Fall Vegetation Survey at LBJ Wildflower Center.** 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 25. **Texas Bluebird Society Annual Meeting**, McKinney Falls State Park.

✧ October 26, **2007 Class Graduation.**

October 26-27: **Texas Forest Expo:** "Lending a Hand to You and Your Land." Lone Star Convention Center, Conroe Texas Oct. 26, noon - 7 p.m.; Oct. 27, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information, please check <http://texasforestexpo.tamu.edu>

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

November 14-16, **Texas Invasive Plant Conference**, LBJ Wildflower Centre, Austin. For more information, please check <http://www.texasinvasives.org/conference07/conference.html>.

✧ November 16. **Gala Chapter Meeting.** Election, Awards and Installation of 2008 Executive Board. Wimberley Community Center.



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.

Rooms at the hotel are now booked to capacity.

HIGHLIGHTED ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

*The Annual Meeting registration and information packet is now available. **Click here to download the pdf file.***

- 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).

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

*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.

The last date is 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
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. The registration fee is \$50.00 🌿

Texas Watershed Steward Program

Water bodies within a watershed can be affected by many types of nonpoint source pollution. Recognizing these sources of pollution and methods for their control and prevention is critical. The Texas Watershed Steward (TWS) program is a partnership between Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) to provide science-based, watershed education to help citizens identify and take action to address local water quality impairments.

Who Are Texas Watershed Stewards?

Anyone with a willingness to learn and a desire to improve and protect community water resources can become a Texas Watershed Steward. Anyone living in a watershed including homeowners, agricultural producers, decision-makers, and community leaders are all encouraged to learn more about this program and become Texas Watershed Stewards.

What are the Goals of the Program?

Why is Watershed Stewardship Important?

The Texas Watershed Steward program promotes healthy watersheds by increasing citizen awareness, understanding, and knowledge about the nature and function of watersheds, potential impairments, and watershed protection strategies to minimize nonpoint source pollution.

The broad goals of the Texas Watershed Steward Program include the following:

Increase citizen awareness and knowledge of water issues.

Protect and improve local water resources. Empower individuals to take leadership roles involving community water issues.

Increase stakeholder involvement in Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) and/or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development processes by educating and organizing local citizens.

Watershed stewardship means caring for the water, air, and biodiversity in the entire watershed, while acknowledging that everything is connected and is affected by natural and human activities. Water is the most critical component of our life's existence. Without clean water resources, we simply cannot survive. The quality and quantity of water found within our watersheds are greatly affected by how we choose to live on the land. And since each and every one of us lives in a watershed, good watershed stewardship is crucial to ensuring the sustainability of our water resources for generations to come.

If we become aware of our watersheds, become educated about the needs of our watersheds, understand the effects that our activities have on watersheds, and discover ways to get involved in our watersheds, we will act more responsibly to preserve, protect, and enhance them.

What Will You Learn About in a Texas Watershed Steward Training?

The Texas Watershed Steward curriculum consists of 4 different modules designed to provide basic information on the nature and function of watersheds, potential sources of impairment, and strategies for watershed protection. The training modules will be tailored as much as possible to the specific watershed where the training is taking place.

1. OVERVIEW OF WATERSHED SYSTEMS
2. OVERVIEW OF WATERSHED IMPAIRMENTS
3. MANAGING TO IMPROVE WATERSHED FUNCTION
4. COMMUNITY-DRIVEN WATERSHED PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Training Opportunity:

Tuesday, December 4 in KYLE, TEXAS:
Location: Plum Creek Community Center, 459 Haupt. *Time:* 8am-4pm. *Cost:* FREE

How to Register:

Go online to <http://tws.tamu.edu> and click on the link that says "Online Training Registration." Find the training you want to attend, fill in all of the information, and click on the Register button.

Or, contact Jennifer Peterson directly: Tel: 979-862-8072; e-mail: jlpeterson@ag.tamu.edu



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Fall Vegetation Survey at LBJ Wildflower Centre

Learn the Native Grasses and Wildflowers While Conducting Scientific Research!

Hone your plant identification skills while contributing to research on Central Texas ecosystems.

Every spring and fall we train volunteers to collect data from our on-site research area, where plots are burned or mowed at different times of the year to examine the effects on plant communities. **All experience levels are welcome--**the plant surveys will be conducted in small teams, with staff members nearby at all times. **New participants in the surveys will attend one four-hour training class, and commit to at least two four-hour field sessions.** Training is optional for those of you who have volunteered in the past.

Training: You may take the training on any one of four dates. Your training session will last about four hours. In the training we will present a brief overview of the research, and you will learn how to collect the data and receive a crash course on plant identification. **Training dates are: Saturday, Oct. 6 at 9 - 1 pm; Sunday, Oct. 7, 2 - 6 pm; Tuesday, Oct. 9, 9 - 1pm; or Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2-6 pm.** Again, you need to attend only one of these sessions. **Please e-mail or call to let us know which training session you would like to attend.** You will want to bring a water bottle, a hat, sunscreen, and something to take notes with. You can sign up for survey sessions during training so you might also want to bring your calendar or appointment book.

We have redesigned the training session so that plant identification is the focus of training. The plant ID will focus on field identification of plants frequently encountered in the survey. So former participants who want to brush up on plant ID skills will need to attend the entire session.

Surveys begin on **Tuesday, October 18** and will continue on a Tuesday through Saturday routing until we finish, usually in about two and a half weeks. You can choose between a morning shift, 9am to 1pm; an afternoon shift, 2pm to 6pm; or both if you are feeling frisky. If there is an attendant at the gate, tell that person that you are coming to work on the survey: they will wave you in for free. You may park in the employee parking lot—go to the back of the visitor lot, and enter past the signs that says "No Parking" and "Authorized Parking Only", or you may use the visitor lot. We will usually meet in the Volunteer Room of the Administration Building, behind the Receptionist's desk. If we are not there, ask the receptionist. If you are late, it may be difficult to locate us in the field.

For more information or to sign up for a training session, contact Jeannine Tinsley at jtinsley@wildflower.org or call 512- 232-0109.

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; 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. ✨



Wildscape Garden, San Marcos Nature Center

HCMN PROJECT #405

The last rain in September came on September 2, and the drier weather has ended growth on the scale of a tropical rainforest. The passion vines are still luxuriant and hosts to Gulf Fritillaries, which whirl around you while you work. Crimson Patches have also multiplied on Acanthus. Goldenrod and lantana were coming into flower at the end of September and are attracting Zebra Heliconians and other butterflies.

Sow thistles, 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.



Jacob's Well

HCMN PROJECT #603

Walt Krudop and Dale Shively met 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. 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! ✨

Seed Collection Project

Bryan Davis announces that Robert Edmondson with Texas Forestry Service has contacted him to request that HCMN volunteers help with a seed collection process for native pecans and flame leaf sumac, seeds to be dropped off at the Extension Office for delivery to the Lubbock Nursery. There they will be germinated and returned to the local area for plant re-establishment.

Seed collection as a volunteer opportunity will fall under the Extension Office volunteer code #402. Bryan will draft a description for distribution to the membership. ✨

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. ✨

Extension Office Opens Soil & Water Testing Campaigns

Bryan Davis, Extension Agent for Hays County, announces that the TAMU Extension Service will test soil samples and water samples at special reduced rates during October.

For soil samples, please pick up bags and soil testing kits at the Extension Office in San Marcos. The reduced price is \$6.00 per test instead of the usual \$10.00.

For water samples, the special rate is \$20.00 per sample, a \$10.00 discount from the regular cost of \$30.00. Please contact the Extension Office for the testing protocol. ✨



State News

Wildlife and Fish Management Calendar for Texas and the Southeast: a Landowner's Guide

This new publication, hot off the press, gives Texas landowners month by month management activities to conduct by species. Developed by Billy Higginbotham, Professor and Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist, this publication provides wildlife managers with details on what they need to do monthly. It is also the perfect tool to strategically plan management activities for white-tailed deer, waterfowl, largemouth bass, channel catfish, quail, doves and more.

Need to learn about feral hog control? It's in there!

Aging deer by tooth wear and replacement or by field judging? It's in there!

Fish stocking rates and species composition for your farm pond? It's in there!

Attracting waterfowl to your wetlands? It's in there!

The publication is more than a management guide and more than a calendar. It takes the best of both formats and features beautiful color photos of Texas wildlife each month. It's a must have for landowners serious about managing their wildlife resources.

Landowners can order the publication two ways. Log on to the Texas Cooperative Extension Bookstore website at <http://tcebookstore.org> or call the TCE Bookstore toll free at 1-888-900-2577.

To find the calendar select "Animals" on the Bookstore home page then click "wildlife". The calendar appears on page 5 of the wildlife selections. You may also find it by selecting the search option and entering publication number B-6197.

The publication cost is \$7.95 plus tax and shipping. Cost is reduced to \$3.50 per copy for

orders of 50 or more.



Local News

Blessing of the Animals

On Saturday, October 13, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, a Blessing of the Animals will be held on the Emily Ann Theatre grounds, 1101 FM 2325, Wimberley, Texas. It will be a colorful, heart-warming event. There will be live llamas, miniature donkeys from Old Glory Ranch, farm animals, free face-painting for kids, the outdoor Blessing of the Animals, Pets on Parade (with costumes and prizes for pets and kids of all ages), at-cost vaccinations and vet care, silent auction, Picnic in the Park, and live music. So far, the line-up of entertainers includes Donna Bailey, Destination, Gypsy Moon, and *many* others!

This event will benefit the animals that rely on ARF of Wimberley, PAWS of Kyle, and the TX Hearing and Service Dogs of Dripping Springs. On Saturday, October 13, the events will also include the 10th Anniversary celebration of ARF, a demo of the PAWS Cell Dog Program, and a demo of the TX Hearing and Service Dogs with a gentleman in a wheelchair.

This blessing event combines St. Francis' love for animals with community service to help with at-cost pet vaccinations and neutering ~ and make it a fun experience for the whole family that helps raise consciousness for all of God's creatures! For more information, email or call Karen Hulene Bartell at 512-894-0105 or click <http://www.emilyann.org/eventshtml>

Children's Fall Workshops

SAN MARCOS NATURE CENTER

The San Marcos Nature Center invites children 3 to 9 to its Fall series of ten exciting.

The workshops will each have two sessions that meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Morning session times are 10:00 to 11:00 am, and afternoon sessions meet between 3:30 and 4:30 pm. Here's the list:

October 2- Butterflies
October 16- Bats

November 6-	Texas Snakes
December 4-	Insectigations
December 18-	Nature Crafts
January 15-	Wild Life
February 5-	Carnivorous Plants
February 19-	Science Experiments

Come meet the animals, walk through our gardens and participate in nature lessons & experiments.

The Registration Fee is \$5.00 per child. For groups of more than 5 children, registration at the group rate is \$3.00 per child. The Registration deadline for each session is 5 pm the Friday before the workshop. *Register by phone at 512-393-8400.*

Oak Tree Diseases

Bryan Davis and Dell Hood report that the Hays Extension Office has received three or four times more calls about diseased oak trees this year than usual. The rate of Oak wilt outbreaks, however, has not increased.

Dell and Bryan note that last year's drought weakened most trees, and this year's wet spring and summer made oaks more susceptible to attack by fungi, blights, canker, and rust. Oaks in a belt of Hays County that sustained damage to roots and crowns during storms with high wind shears were the most susceptible to Oak Wilt and other infections. 🌿

Wimberley Butterfly Watch

Butterfly numbers and variety increased at the beginning of September as the autumn parade of wildflowers began. Kidneywood bushes began their fall flowering late in September and attracted a variety of small butterflies, as well as moths, flies, and gaudy wasps. Frostweed and Poverty Weed began flowering by the middle of the month and initially attracted a variety of butterflies. Numbers have tapered off since.

We have regularly observed a few Monarchs at their regular roosting places in Wimberley but have not observed them in migration. They must be waiting for a good cool front to help them on their way.

	1-10	11-20	21-30
Giant Swallowtail	x	x	x
Pipevine Swallowtail	x	x	x

Black Swallowtail	x	x	x
Eastern Tiger Sw'tail	x	x	x
Checkered White			
Orange Sulphur	x	x	
Southern Dogface			?
Lyside Sulphur			
Cloudless Sulphur	x	x	x
Large Orange Sulfur	x	x	
Little Yellow	x	x	x
Sleepy Orange	x	x	x
Dainty Sulphur	x	x	x
Great Purple Hairstr.	x	x	x
Dusky Blue	x	x	x
Groundstreak			
Henry's Elfin			
Juniper Hairstreak	x	x	x
Oak Hairstreak			
Soapberry Hairstreak			
Gray Hairstreak	x	x	x
Reakirt's Blue			
Eastern Tailed Blue	x	x	?
American Snout			
Gulf Fritillary	x	x	x
Zebra Heliconian			
Variiegated Fritillary		x	x
Bordered Patch	x	x	x
Theona Checkerspot	x	x	x
Pearl Crescent	x	x	x
Phaon Crescent			
Texan Crescent	x		x
Question Mark			
Eastern Comma			
Red Admiral	x	x	
American Lady	x		
Painted Lady	x	x	
Common Buckeye	x	x	x
Common Mestra	x	x	x
Goatweed Leafwing			
Tropical Leafwing	x	x	x
Red-spotted Purple	x	x	x
Hackberry Emperor			x
Tawny Emperor	x		x
Empress Leilia			
Common WoodNymph	x		x
Red Satyr	x		
Little Wood Satyr			
Carolina Satyr	x	x	x
Monarch		x	x
Queen	x	x	x
Silver-spotted Skipper			
Long-tailed Skipper			x
Northern Cloudywing	x	x	x
Sickle-winged Skipper	x		
Juvenal's Duskywing	x	x	x
Horace's Duskywing			x
Funereal Duskywing			

Sleepy Duskywing			
Checkered Skipper	x		
Southern Skipperling	x	x	x
Julia's Skipper	x	x	x
Fiery Skipper	x	x	x
Dun Skipper	x	x	x
Roadside Skipper	x	x	
Eufala Skipper		x	x
Ocola Skipper		x	x

If you spotted something we missed,
please email your editor at news@haysmn.org



Links to Chapter Sponsors and Partners

Sponsors:

Texas Master Naturalist - State Website -
masternaturalist.tamu.edu

Texas Cooperative Extension – agextension.tamu.edu/

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department –
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/

Agencies of Interest:

Bamberger Ranch --

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

Native Plant Society of Texas – 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/

Texas Forest Service – txforestservation.tamu.edu/

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers –

www.usace.army.mil/

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – www.fws.gov/

U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service –

nrcs.usda.gov/

Partners

Austin Nature Day --

<http://www.austinnatureday.org/>

LBJ Wildflower Center -- <http://www.wildflower.org>

San Marcos Nature Centre --

<http://www.smgreenbelt.org>