

Hays County Master Naturalists NEWSLETTER



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

June, 2008

JUNE EVENTS

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board will meet at 6:30 pm, June 11, at the poolhouse of Winifred Simon, 600 Redhawk Road, Wimberley. ✨

June 26 Membership Meeting

Field Trip with Spider Man Joe Lapp

Arrangements for time and place to be announced.

Please watch your e-mail. ✨

THE PRESIDENTIAL VIEW

June is here and that means half of this year has passed! I hope that everyone has spent time doing some natural learning and volunteer service. Dixie Camp continues to put together very educational chapter meetings for the rest of the year so that you can gain advanced training hours while enjoying the talks. I personally enjoyed participating in Dr. Tom Watson's grass class a few weeks ago. No matter how many times I participate in these types of events, I realize there is much to learn (and how much I have forgotten from class to class). It is always good to be continually exposed to the same information over and over until you can recite it in your sleep!

The Board decided to forgo the Wimberley July 4th Parade entry this year to give members a rest after winning the Best Float and Most Spirited Awards last year. We will regroup and plan for other outreach activities throughout the rest of the year. As the Board moves forward with planning the rest of the year, it is my wish that those who have a burning desire to participate in the Chapter at a higher level will consider key committee positions that need

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	Jean McMeans
Advanced Training Comm	Betty Finley
Membership Committee	Beth Ramey
Web Master	Herb Smith
Newsletter Committee & Editor	Richard Barnett 512-847-6941 news@haysmn.org
Outreach Committee	vacant
Host Committee	Margaret Baker
Historian	Laurel Robertson
Volunteer Service	Walt Krudop
AgriLife Agent	Bryan Davis
TP&WD Rep	Lee Ann Linam

help (basically all committees can use additional help).

The Board will also fulfill its obligation to nominate and appoint a new Training Committee Chair for the 2009 Class by July. This was a change that was adopted last year with the Training Committee restructure. Jean McMeans has done an excellent job this year and many thanks go to her, but she also needs some well-earned time off from committee functions so she can enjoy a year with her family.

If you are interested in being considered for the 2009 Training Committee Chair, please let me or any Board member know by June 10. This will allow the Board time in June to appoint the new Chair so that they can begin planning for the new class by July.

I also hope that you have been participating in the Google website that Herb Smith set up. I have certainly enjoyed

receiving the emails from members discussing bird and wildlife sightings.

Have a naturally great month.

Dale 



Members in the News

HCMN Secretary on Leave

Susan Nenny is taking personal time off from her duties as MN Secretary to care for her elderly parents. Please send any MN correspondence to President Dale Shively at pres@haysmn.org, who will distribute the information.

Chapter News

May 29 Membership Meeting

Trey Hamlett of Texas Parks & Wildlife spoke on "Managing and Retaining Volunteers" at the regular monthly membership meeting of the Hays County Master Naturalists on Thursday, May 29.


Trey spoke from his own experience in managing volunteers at a variety of fund-raising events in San Antonio and Austin before joining TPWD to coordinate the annual EXPO.

Whether a volunteer-based program lasts a day or two or it needs volunteers year round on a sustaining basis, Trey notes that the first essential for any organization is leaders who are friendly, motivated, and passionate about its mission. An enthusiastic leadership infects and empowers volunteers. As a result, Trey has always found that volunteers perform their assigned tasks with more efficiency than regular staff or temporary paid workers. In addition, they enrich any event by contributing a wide variety of practical experience to their tasks.

For Hamlett, finding leaders has always been a challenge. He recommends meeting that challenge by promoting from within the organization, providing recognition and fresh opportunities, and developing an organizational structure and task definitions for each project.

Trey especially advocate making each activity fun for volunteers. "Make it a party and

they will come. Make it drudgery, and they will stay away."

Master Naturalists believe in fun, whatever they do. 

HaysMN Forum

Current Forum entries feature humming birds, their nests and nestling, Texas Horned Lizards, migratory birds, water monitoring, and Herb Smith's photo of the Blanco River.


To join the HaysMN Forum, simply go to the Haysmn.org web site and look for the Forum application in the menu.

Please let Herb (web@haysmn.org) know if you have any questions or suggestions. Better yet, use the Forum to discuss the Forum.

Herb Smith, Webmaster

<http://www.haysmn.org>, 512-847-2006

Reporting Reminder


Reports for May, 2008 are due by June 7. Please email your reports of Volunteer Service hours and Advanced Training hours to Beth Ramey, preferably by using the friendly report forms on our website at www.haysmn.org. 




CALENDAR

(The dragonfly logo  identifies official HCMN events)

Saturday, June 7: **ECO-DAY at Hill Country Ranches**, Henly South Fire Station on FM 2325 at Plainview Road. 9:00 am to 5:00pm. More info below

 Wednesday, June 11, **Executive Board Meeting** at 600 Red Hawk Road, Wimberley.

 Tuesday, June 17. 2008 Class Meeting, Aquarena Center. **Aquifers and the Birth of a River. Wetlands, Riparian Areas, & Restoration.** Dr. Ron Coley, Minette Marr.

✧ Thursday, June 26. **Field trip with Spiderman Joe Lapp.** Watch for more info.

✧ July 4. **Independence Day Parade,** Wimberley. Plans for a Master Naturalist float are cancelled for this year, but we wish you all a Great and Glorious Fourth of July.

Saturday, July 12. **Picnic at Jacob's Well,** Wimberley. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Walking tour and presentation on hydrogeology of Cypress Creek area begins at courtyard of Dancing Waters Retreat, 1405 Mt. Sharp Road. Also archeology, bird watching, hiking, and swimming. To reserve box lunches, \$10:00 each, contact Barbara Thibodeaux at 847-7721 or barbarathibodeaux@verizon.net by July 7.

✧ Tuesday, July 15. 2008 Class Meeting. **Water Resources in Texas & Hays County,** Ms. Velma Danielson. **Herps of Texas** (herpetology), Dr Randy Simpson. Holy Spirit Episcopal, Dripping Springs.

✧ Wednesday, July 16, **Executive Board Meeting** at 600 Red Hawk Road, Wimberley.

✧ Tuesday, August 12. 2008 Class Meeting. **Wildlife, Mammals, and Habitat,** Dr. Barcus. **Texas Weather,** Troy Kimmell. Plum Creek.

✧ Saturday, August 23. 2008 Class Field Trip, LBJ Wildflower Center, Austin. **Green Roofs, Native Plants, Seeds, and Habitat Restoration,** Steve Windhager and Minette Marr.

✧ Saturday, September 6. 2008 Class Field Trip, Bamberger Ranch. **Impact of Man, Range Management,** Ranch Staff.

✧ Saturday, September 20. 2008 Class Meeting at Knox Ranch. **Water Quality, Fish, and Amphibians,** Gordon and Lee Ann Linam plus TP&WD staff.

✧ Tuesday, October 7. 2008 Class Meeting. **Urbanization and Land Fragmentation,** Dr. Jim Cathey. **Volunteers as Teachers: Interpretation.**

✧ Friday, October 24. 2008 Class Meeting. **2008 Class Graduation,** Bryan Davis. Arrangements to be announced.



ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Texas Amphibian and Mussel Watch Train the Trainer Workshops

JUNE 13 AND 14, 2008 - BASTROP, TX

LCRA McKinney Roughs, 1884 State Hwy 71 West, Cedar Creek,

Learn how to identify amphibian and freshwater mussel species and participate in scientific research. Sponsored by the Lost Pines Chapter of the Master Naturalist Program and the Lower Colorado River Authority's McKinney Roughs. Texas Amphibian Watch training will be held on Friday, June 13, 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., and Texas Mussel Watch will be held on Saturday, June 14, 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Texas Master Naturalist Approved Advanced Training. SBEC and TEEAC credit available for educators. Both workshops include field sessions; wear appropriate attire. Registration required. Fee \$18.00 per workshop or \$35 for both workshops. Fee includes materials, refreshments and pizza on Friday; sandwich with chips on Saturday. To register and for more information please contact Mark McClelland at 512-281-5516 (evenings or weekends) or markmcc@prodigy.net. ✧

Water Quality Monitoring of the Blanco Watershed

VOLUNTEER PROJECT 802

The water quality data collected by this project will be submitted to the Texas Stream Team (<http://txstreamteam.rivers.txstate.edu/>) for inclusion in their statewide water quality monitoring program with the following goals.

- To produce quality-assured, usable information that government agencies, waste generators, and the public need to make environmentally sound decisions.

- To improve communication and facilitate education about the natural resources in Texas.
- To resolve conflicts over environmental impacts through positive cooperation.”

The Nature Conservancy's Blanco Watershed Project is partnering with the Hays County Master Naturalists in this project. TNCT is providing the expensive water quality monitoring equipment and HCMNs will provide the volunteers for:

Phase 1 – Lone Man Creek (contact the Geists) at pondscum@swbell.net)
 Phase 2 – Cypress Creek (contact Jackie Mattice at jrm44313@yahoo.com)
 Phase 3 – future Blanco sites

Introductory Advanced Training special

- 1.5 AT hours for observing the monitoring procedure
- 1.5 Volunteer hours for assisting during a 2nd procedure

Then, we hope some of you will take the required training to continue as volunteers.

Where we are

Phase 1 -

The core LMC project consists of 4 sites.
 Smith Creek @ Arrow Lake 80475 (Larry Calvert)
 Lone Man Creek @ Red Hawk Rd (1st low water crossing) 80476 (Larry Calvert)
 Lone Man Creek @ Geists' dam 80477 (Geists)
 Blanco River @ RMR Waterpark 80479 (Margaret Baker)
 3 additional sites

Phase 2 –

Cypress Creek Nature Trail (Jackie Mattice) and additional sites on Cypress Creek

Where we want to be

We need YOU!

There are additional sites on LMC, Cypress Creek and other creeks/river in the Blanco Watershed that need volunteers.

Monitoring volunteers are required to attend a full day training session by Texas Stream Team; if we can assemble a group of 8 people, we can arrange training in the Wimberley area rather than San Marcos. Trained volunteers can serve as a primary site monitor or a standby when the primary person

is unavailable. Each location needs to be monitored at least monthly, at the same time of day.

Please contact us for more information or clarity.

Please help us in any way you can.

Remember, this is your water and your future!

Ginger and LaRay Geist ✨



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Elephant Ear Removal at River Center, San Marcos

HCMN PROJECT 408, HABITAT RESTORATION

Removal of the invasive Elephant Ears at the River Center is an on-going project that also affords an opportunity to talk to visitors to the wetlands about non-native species and their impact on the sensitive environment at the springs.

The following times have been set as workdays at the River Center in San Marcos for removing Elephant Ears in the wetlands: Every first and third Wednesday from 4:30 to 7:00 pm from April 2 until September 17.

Please direct any questions to Leah Laszewski, laszewski@yahoo.com ✨

info@valleynaturecenter.org
www.valleynaturecenter.org

Wildscape Garden, San Marcos Nature Center

HCMN PROJECT #405

The Nature Center has a new director, Julie Hulbert, who assumed the position on June 19. Julie worked for the city in the past as a biologist and as a subcontractor in managing the San Marcos River ecosystem. Although the Center has been closed since January, work on developing the grounds has continued. Julie is preparing a site for a butterfly house, and she plans a summer day camp and other activities for children.

The rose mallows in our plot are in flower, and Gulf Fritillaries are flitting through the foliage in search of mates or passion vines to lay their eggs.

Sunflowers were coming into bloom at the end of May, but they are only half as tall as last year. They hosted larvae of Bordered Patch butterflies last year. We have observed one Janais Patch butterfly in our plot, and perhaps they will become regular residents after breeding here last year. Their host plants were Flame Acanthus.

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.



STATE NEWS

Tenth Anniversary T-shirt Design Contest

SUBMIT DESIGNS BY JUNE 20

This year, 2008, is our Statewide Texas Master Naturalist Program's 10th Anniversary! To celebrate and commemorate this important milestone, we invite you to help us develop a limited-edition 10th Anniversary t-shirt for the program through this contest. We know there are many talented Texas Master Naturalists out there so get your pencils sharpened, or your computer programs running and design that winning t-shirt today! The winning design will become the 10th Anniversary, limited edition t-shirt for the TMN program to become available later this year. The winning artist's name will appear on the design wherever it is used and the artist will receive five of the limited edition shirts.

All submitted designs should include the following:

1. Reference to TMN program's 10th anniversary
2. Must include-but is not limited to-- the official TMN program state logo
3. In the event any specific species are depicted, they should be species that can be found in all natural ecological regions of Texas.
4. T-shirt design (back) dimensions must fit within a 12 in. x 12 in. square

5. Consider developing a slogan or quote for the design and our 10th Anniversary year

6. Designs can be in pencil, crayon, felt tip or paint, or can be done using photos and/or computer drawing or design software.

7. Design must be easily scannable to a high resolution file (at least 300 dpi, and preferably higher!)

8. Use a maximum of four (4) colors for your design -- no gradients or transparent layers, please.

9. Designs must be your own original work and must not contain any third-party logos, trademarks or copyright material outside of the TMN program.

10. Submitted designs should be signed (original or electronically) by the artist in the lower right hand corner.

11. Designs must be submitted by June 20th, 2008 for consideration in the contest.

Designs shall be sent to:

Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist Program Coordinator, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 309 Sidney Baker South, Kerrville, TX 78028. E-mail:

mhaggerty@wfscgate.tamu.edu

Other helpful things to know about.

* Only one winner will be selected for the 10th Anniversary limited-edition t-shirt design contest.

* Minor modifications may have to be made to the design for screen printing. In that event, the artist will be able to review the final version of the image to ensure the integrity of the design.

* Remember, fine detail such as sketching can be done, but some of the detail could be lost through the digitizing and screen printing process.

* If original artwork is mailed, please take care to protect the piece during transfer. The Texas Master Naturalist Program is not responsible for damaged, lost or missing artwork.

* Final t-shirt color may be selected by the TMN State Program office in coordination with the screen printer to allow for best imprinting/image transfer possible. A screen printer has been lined up for this project.

* Final digitized winning image becomes property of the screen printer, with permissions for use on other than screen printable items for the Texas Master Naturalist Program on a case by case basis.

* The Texas Master Naturalist Program reserves the right to utilize submitted images for future program marketing and advertising with notification and credit given to the artists.



Local News

ECO-DAY at Henley

Save Saturday, June 7th, for Eco-Day, a day of fun and information at the Henly South Fire Station on FM 2325 at Plainview Road.

One-hour presentations from 9:00 to 5:00 will be offered as well as interesting demonstrations for kids and parents alike.

- Watch how rain travels through the Edwards, Glen Rose, and Trinity aquifers using a model aquifer showing the different layers of gravel, rocks, and clay through which rainwater trickles.
- The Rainwater Simulator shows what happens to rain when it falls on different ground surfaces--pavement, roofs, grassy land, and overgrazed land.
- Powdered drinks and cocoa help show how silt and fertilizers affect our water systems using a watershed model that includes miniature houses, a factory, and a farm with a stream flowing to a lake.
- Learn the basics of composting by watching the construction of a simple compost pile.

Trained firemen from the Hays County #6 Henly Battalion will hand out stickers and fireman hats to kids of all ages. The fire truck will be available for anyone interested in seeing the firefighting equipment or to climb on the truck.

Mark Peterson, Project Coordinator for San Antonio Water System and former South Central Community Forester for the Texas Forest Service, will offer beautiful alternatives to traditional lawns, ways to conserve water, and talk about how San Antonio was able to lower its water consumption.

Gail McGlamery, Program Coordinator for Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, will describe several ideal wildlife habitats for several

natives, including some endangered species. Gail earned a B.S. in Wildlife & Fisheries from Texas A&M University and has been an environmental educator for over 16 years, working with audiences abroad through Peace Corps and domestically through national and grass roots organizations. In her current role she oversees the education and volunteer programs for Austin Water Utility's Wildland Conservation Division.

Bryan Davis, Agriculture/Natural Resources Agent for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Hays County, will show several different types of rainwater collection systems both for the home and for wildlife. Bryan will explain the value of land stewardship and the importance of conserving our water.

Stephen Colley, Green Building Coordinator for the Metropolitan Partnership for Energy in San Antonio, will share his knowledge on building and renovating for healthy, efficient, and environmentally appropriate Hill Country living.

Jamie Kinscherff and Karen Archer, both Master Naturalists, will demonstrate the Rainwater Simulator. Jamie will explain how to develop a land management plan suited to your home and land. He'll also talk about Ashe Juniper control and restoration of land. Karen will concentrate on purple martins and the invasive cowbird.

After being named to the Department of Energy's list of Solar America Cities last summer, Austin received \$185,000 to expand its efforts to increase solar power use. Vincent Guerrero, Project Manager at Texas Solar Power Company, will explain the benefits and various uses of solar power for your home and ranch. He will talk about the importance of harnessing one of our most abundant and renewable resources: rays of the sun.

Plan to spend the day at Eco-Day for informative presentations, fun demonstrations, and hands-on displays. Lunches will be available for purchase. They will include a sandwich from Rolling in Thyme and Dough, homemade cookie, and water or tea. See website for schedule and contact:

www.hcrpo.org.

Sponsored by Hill Country Ranches Property Owners. – Mimi Boelter

*River Systems Institute
Undertakes Cypress Creek Study*

The River Systems Institute at Texas State University-San Marcos is in the process of coordinating a major study on the Cypress Creek watershed in and around Wimberley.

A three-year grant amounting to \$360,000 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and numerous community partners will fund the research designed to sustain the health of the creek.

The creek, which ultimately flows into the Blanco River and serves as a significant recharge zone for the Trinity Aquifer, is undergoing change due to rapid land development for commercial and residential uses.

Andy Sansom, director of the River Systems Institute, says the organization will provide a sensible approach to the research through sound science and unbiased information.

"Everything is based on hard science and designed to get complete input from all stakeholders," Sansom said.

Sansom compared the importance of Cypress Creek to Wimberley area residents to that of the San Marcos River and its value to the students and citizens of San Marcos. "It's a defining part of the community," Sansom said.

"With sites like Jacob's Well and Blue Hole, it's incredibly beautiful. We're also really excited and invested in it because Cypress Creek is in our neighborhood."

Faculty from the Department of Geography and Department of Biology will manage the project. The Texas Stream Team will assist in compiling research with students and university personnel.

"It's an opportunity to work with the community as land uses change," said Jason Pinchback, grant specialist for the Texas Stream Team. "Together, we can act to keep the creek alive while also growing the region."

The multi-phase project seeks to define the current state of the watershed, gather input from community stakeholders, and develop a scientific tool chest for local decision-makers.

Vicente Lopes, professor in the Department of Biology, is creating a user-friendly computer interface to archive all data from the project and will train local stakeholders on the use of a decision support system based on a complex set of models.

Pinchback says the public still has the opportunity to actively manage development on the creek and its environmental impact.

"The input from the community is the driving force for this project," said Pinchback. "We want leaders from groups across the Cypress Creek watershed to get involved."

One of those leaders is Jack Hollon, vice-president of the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association and director of the Hays-Trinity Groundwater Conservation District. He says spots along Cypress Creek dried up and stopped flowing in 1999 and in the summer of 2000. "That's when we knew we needed to look at this more seriously. It became vital to know the amounts we were pumping."

Hollon also says other concerns need evaluation such as impervious cover, amounts of silt that slow water flows, protecting sections of water with critical recharge zones, limiting chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides from flowing into the creek, and measuring numerous other water quality parameters.

"We need a different system to study the water and what is being done to it," said Hollon. "And we are very excited that the River Systems Institute is going to help make that happen."

The research is scheduled to end August 2010.

The River Systems Institute wants to hear input from the community concerning the direction of the study.

Co-sponsors of the project include Hays County, Hays-Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Wimberley Valley Watershed Association, Village of Wimberley, City of Woodcreek, Texas Water Development Board, Nature Conservancy of Texas, and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

For more information, contact Jason Pinchback from the Texas Stream Team at 512-245-9148 or via e-mail atjp30@txstate.edu.

-- Marc Speir, Texas State University-San Marcos

Shoot now for Naturescapes!

Master Naturalists are invited to enter the 4th annual Naturescapes Photography Contest co-sponsored by the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance and the Hill Country Photography Club.

We have expanded the contest this year to include photographs taken in natural areas throughout Hays County, and have eliminated categories. Suggested subjects include scenery, wildlife, plants, people and pets.

We hope that the contest and exhibit will increase public awareness of how much our natural areas enrich our lives, and how important it is to preserve them. A \$200 prize will be awarded for Best in Show, and up to four \$100 Awards of Excellence will be presented for the next most outstanding photographs. Additional Awards of Merit will be presented at the discretion of the contest juror, Laurence Parent.

Deadline for entering photos is July 21st. The exhibition in the San Marcos Activity Center Walkers Gallery will run September 5 through October 31, 2008, with an awards reception on the opening night.

More information can be found at <http://hcphotoclub.org/naturescapes.html>.

Wimberley Butterfly Watch

We saw few very Monarchs during the month, and other butterflies are equally scarce.

	1-10	11-20	21-31
Giant Swallowtail			x
Pipevine Swallowtail	x	x	x
Black Swallowtail	x	x	x
Eastern Tiger S'tail	x		
Checkered White			
Southern Dogface			
Lyside Sulphur			
Cloudless Sulphur	x	x	x
Little Yellow			
Sleepy Orange	x	x	
Dainty Sulphur			
Great Purple H'streak			
Dusky Blue Groundstrk			x
Henry's Elfin			
Juniper Hairstreak	x	x	x
Oak Hairstreak	x		
Gray Hairstreak	x	x	x
Reakirt's Blue	x		
American Snout			
Gulf Fritillary	x		x
Variiegated Fritillary	x		
Bordered Patch			
Theona Checkerspot			
Pearl Crescent			x
Red Admiral	x	x	
American Lady	x	x	
Painted Lady		x	
Common Buckeye			
Tropical Leafwing		x	x
Red Satyr	x	x	
Little Wood Satyr	x	x	x

Carolina Satyr	x	x	x
Monarch	x	x	
Queen		x	x
Northern Cloudywing	x	x	x
Juvenal's Duskywing	x	x	x
Horace's Duskywing		X	x
Funereal Skipper			x
Checkered Skipper			
Fiery Skipper	x	x	x
Dun Skipper	x	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.bambergeranch.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 - txforestservice.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 - .nrqs.usda.gov/
 Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority -- www.gbra.org

Partners

Austin Nature Day -- <http://www.austinnatureday.org/>
 LBJ Wildflower Center -- <http://www.wildflower.org>

San Marcos Nature Centre --
<http://www.smgreenbelt.org>
Gorge Preservation Society --
www.canyongorge.org