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Master Naturalist Receives Lone Star Legend Award

Tomye Folts-Zettner, Master Naturalist and member of the Capital Area Chapter, and her brother Timothy Folts have teamed together over the past several years to restore wildlife habitat. For their ongoing work, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) recently honored them with a **2002 Lone Star Legend Award** in conservation.

Each year, TPW hosts a banquet to highlight the achievements of its outstanding volunteers and partners. On April 2, Tomye and Tim joined winners in seven other categories at the University of Texas Alumni Center, where each recipient was awarded a trophy or plaque and a picture and video that showed them performing their respective volunteer activities.

Since 1998, Tomye and Tim have worked to improve the heronry habitat on Bird Island, one of two islands that constitutes a TPW Wildlife Management Area in the Cedar Creek Reservoir near Athens, Texas. How Tomye, who lives in Spicewood in Western Travis County, became involved with habitat in East Texas is the culmination of an interesting series of events.

It all started, Tomye explains, when her father retired and her parents moved to the Cedar Creek Lake area. Tim and his daughter soon followed. Scaling up radio-controlled, model boat plans from earlier years, Tomye's father and brothers soon built wooden kayaks so the family could further enjoy their shoreline location.

Out in the middle of the lake, islands near the mouth of their cove

beckoned. After some searching, they discovered that the first, Telfair Island, was named after Dr. Telfair, currently a wildlife biologist with TPW, who in the early '70s had done his doctoral dissertation on the island's heronries and had since studied the island on his own. Over the years he tracked the growth of Cattle Egret populations, relatively new to Texas at the time he began. He also monitored one of the first nests of Neotropical Cormorants found on inland fresh water.

"So, kind of as an excuse to not have anyone after us for taking off to go kayaking, we offered to help Dr. Telfair monitor these things," Tomye says. After logging initial reports of interesting things that proved their abilities to make good observations, Dr. Telfair gave them more and more projects to do. They searched for tags and did some banding. Kayaks enabled them to get close to the birds and take pictures without disturbing them. Among the island nesters, they found Great White, Snowy, and Cattle Egrets, and Great Blue Herons, Tricolored Herons, and Black-crowned Night Herons.

When they observed the barren conditions and severe erosion on Bird Island, the second island, they began collecting seeds from the first island's diverse plant group and started germinating plants in Tomye's greenhouse. (cont. pg. 2)

☞ *Don't miss the pot-luck, June 22!*

May 29th mtg: election of officers.

June 26th mtg: Julie Jenkins will speak on Caves in the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer area.

Inside: Dan Rivas shares "the good life." Plus lots of good resource books, web-sites, and more to fill your summer days!

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Field Notes

(Lone Star Legend Award, continued from pg. 1)

The third island, an overflow nesting site where Tomye and Tim once flushed an immature Bald Eagle, is not under wildlife management, Tomye notes, but it's also sustaining very damaging erosion. "It's really sad; we've got a couple of ideas of what we want to do, but it would be nice if we could get enough interest generated to really get some corporations involved," she says.

Although she and Tim have made strides toward re-vegetation, they've also sustained setbacks like a boater's carelessly tossed cigarette that caused a fire that destroyed much of their first fall plantings.

Telfair Island, too, has suffered losses. Fourth of July fireworks aimed over the water scare fledglings from their nests. Sadly, after finding cover, they lose their bearings and often perish. "There's not a whole lot of awareness or appreciation for what they've got up there," Tomye says, somewhat encouraged by the prospect that a Master Naturalist chapter may organize in the Athens area. "A lot of re-education needs to be going on."

An unexpected honor, their recent award thrilled her, Tomye says. Although she was aware of the awards, she hadn't expected to be selected, in fact, hadn't realized they'd been nominated until the day she heard she and Tim had won. "It was a total surprise," she says. "It's nice that at least somebody really appreciates volunteerism and acknowledges that. I guess, if nothing else, that pretty much ensures that Tim and I will always be involved in things like that because now we feel like we'd better live up to all of this. That'll keep us busy."

We at CAMN congratulate Tomye and Tim for the honor they bring to all volunteers, and we extend our thanks to both of them for their untiring efforts. We are proud to have Tomye as a member of our organization. ❧

Talking Turkey at the March Meeting

President Tom Neale opened the meeting with announcements and nature notes, and then introduced the evening's speaker, **John Burke, the wild turkey program leader** for Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. He spoke, naturally, on the three wild turkey subspecies we have here in Texas: the Merriam's, the Rio Grande, and the Eastern.

They are distributed geographically across the state roughly according to annual rainfall. So, the Merriam's wild turkey is found in the dry, mountainous west; the Rio Grande turkey—the most common—likes 22-35 inches of rain annually and is concentrated in the Edwards Plateau; and the Eastern turkey prefers the wetter conditions found in East Texas.

Over 33,000 Rio Grande wild turkeys have been released in Texas since restoration began in the 1920s. The final restocking efforts took place from 1979 to 2001, with over 7,000 Eastern wild turkeys released in 57 counties.

Burke then talked about some of the limiting factors for wild turkey populations: including predators, poaching, fire ants, and weather (although fire ants have less impact than previously thought). Good turkey habitat requires a fairly open area with some big trees and bunches of knee-high grasses and weeds. Wild turkey are ground nesters, and start laying around April 1. They need *lots* of insects to raise their young, which run and hide from predators among the tall grasses. An interesting point was that agricultural fields with closely planted grasses are impossible for the small chicks to maneuver through, but they can easily run around our native bunch grasses.

Burke discussed the five tools of wildlife management: the axe, plow, cattle, fire, and gun. These tools can be used, or misused, to restore and maintain good habitat. He finished his talk on the cautionary note that long-term population trends in wild turkeys are declining overall, and that is mainly due to habitat loss—a

familiar story.

For those who want more information, Burke recommended *The Wild Turkey: Biology and Management*, by James Dixon. ❧

Our Vanishing Flora Highlighted at April Meeting

Members of the Texas Master Naturalist Capital Area Chapter gathered for their monthly general meeting on Wednesday, April 24, at the Austin Nature and Science Center. After a social time and brief announcements, guest speaker **Flo Oxley of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center** presented an interesting and lively talk—this time on conservation issues, especially as they pertained to plants and, more to the point, the endangered and endemic Bracted Twistflower.

Flo began by asking folks to think of threatened, endangered, and extinct animals, repeating the exercise for plants. Why do the animals come to mind more frequently while plants are forgotten, she questioned. After leading her audience in discussion, the conclusion evolved: plant blindness. We see a green background and overlook specific plants that have disappeared (because they've become threatened, endangered, or worse).


Statistics further fueled her talk. Of the 20,000 identified native plant species of North America, 200 have gone extinct. Globally, 29% of all flora is at risk. Of the 730 species federally listed as threatened and endangered, 61% are plants, yet only 5% of federal funding goes to protect them.

Yes, throughout Earth's history plant and animal species have gone extinct while others have adapted and evolved; but as Flo reminded us, current threats to plant and animal species are human driven: development, agriculture, invasive species, climatic change, and more. And if a keystone species becomes endangered, so does an entire ecosystem.

What can we do? Flo urges that we 1) become more vocal to fight the trend, 2) store genetic representatives

of plant species in seed banks, 3) assist at the Wildflower Center—a member of the Center of Plant Conservation that has baseline studies as part of its national agenda, 4) propagate and germinate seeds, 5) educate, and 6) document existing flora.

The Bracted Twistflower is among the plants listed in Texas as species of concern, and Flo is heading up a campaign to do something about it. On May 25, she will train a group of volunteers to identify this lovely endemic flower. On June 1, the group will spend half a day collecting plants on public lands in Travis County. Volunteers will also learn how to press specimens. Finally, on June 8, specimens will be mounted and volunteers will enter their data.

Response was good and her class is full, but for those still interested she anticipates future classes, as she plans to allocate three months in both spring and fall for this work. Training is free. 



CAMN Profiles

Dan Rivas (Spring '99), an enthusiastic CAMN volunteer who has taken on responsibility for the

Hornsby Bend programs, shares some of his “good life” with us for this issue.

I was born on October 12, 1948, in San Antonio, Texas. Here I was, just born and already good things were happening – I had been born a Texan and life was good. My Dad was a military man so we moved around everywhere – everywhere but Texas that is. By the age of 12, I had traveled from Texas to the East Coast by train, crossed the Atlantic by aircraft as well as ship, and lived in several European cities. I was quite the world traveler! Traveling and seeing new places was great but what I wanted most of all was to be home in Texas.

In 1961, my family and I returned to Texas. San Antonio was my home until 1965 – life was good. I must have been having way too much fun because those years flew by. Before I knew it, I was again a world traveler,

sailing the high seas with the US Navy. On my way to Vietnam, my ship passed through the Panama Canal, weighed anchor in Hawaii and the Philippines. My R&R trips took me to Guam, Taiwan, Hong Kong – got to visit pretty much the entire South Pacific region. When my 22-month layover in Vietnam was completed, I took the first ship back to Texas.

I was back in Texas – life was good. I met and married the mother of my children. Since I had already been in the Navy, I decided to join the Army and maybe become a military man like my Dad. The Army took my family and me to Okinawa. My daughter Serena was only three months old when she arrived in Japan. When she was almost three, we were transferred to a small Army post in the horse country of Virginia. Rather than renew with the Army, I became a police officer in a small town in the Virginia countryside. I liked my work – police work suited me just fine – but my work was taking a toll on my family life. I had a son now – Jason – born on Super Bowl Sunday. We decided to make a change in our lives. One bright Virginia day, we loaded up the station wagon with two adults, two kids, two cats and a dog. We were off to Alaska!

Alaska held my attention for twenty years. I had a great job as a fireman – there were many ups and downs, as one must expect in life. After my divorce, my children lived with me. As time passed, Serena married, Jason went off to college, and I had worked twenty years and was eligible to retire. Talk about time flying! Alaska is a beautiful place to live, but in my heart, I was still a Texan. So in January of 1997, off to Texas I went – back to the Alamo City – San Antonio – home at last. Life was good.

In May of 1997, I met Cathy and her feline friend Terra Firma. Although I had spent years living in places considered “close to nature,” my personal relationship with nature was that of an observer. I admired nature from afar – my contact was

through books and videos. I did have a cabin on the lake outside Anchorage and a boat to cruise the waterways. Cathy and Terra helped change my view of nature – through their eyes I could see the subtle interdependencies of all species and how every living thing breathes the same air and depends upon the same fresh water. Cathy encouraged me to explore the different aspects of nature and the environment. I spent time working with Wildlife Rescue and the Humane Society, but did not find the “joy of nature” for which I was searching.

In the spring of 1999, I attended CAMN training and became a Master Naturalist. The CAMN program introduced me to so many different aspects of nature that at times it was hard to take it all in. Although I did not know a lot of technical stuff about birds, I decided to take an intensive weeklong bird banding class held at Fort Hood. To make the rest of the story short, I am hooked on birds now. Through CAMN, I found Hornsby Bend and the Living Lab Project. Working with young people has been and continues to be a real bright spot for me. Seeing the look of amazement and joy on these young kids’ faces is truly a miracle. They can see my enthusiasm for nature, and perhaps a small amount of my newfound appreciation for our Mother Earth will rub off on them. Life truly is good.

As I was growing up, I wanted to be a policeman, a fireman, and a cowboy. I fulfilled my goal with the first two – I am now working on being a cowboy. Doing the “CAMN thing” has allowed me to “cowboy up.” I get to wear boots, a Gus-style cowboy hat, thigh-high snake guards, and carry multi-colored stake ribbon. Every day, as I peacefully stay in the moment, I drink in more of Texas – her history, the peoples who lived here, the animals, the plants, and yes, the magnificent birds.

There is an old saying “Once your eyes and heart are open – you cannot go back to the old way of

being.” I am truly grateful to all the people who have come into my life these past five years. Through your eyes, I can see a different future. Through your hearts, I encounter a love for nature that now flows through me. And for all these things I give thanks – life is good. ☞

Book Recommendations

☞ Just published by University of Texas Press, Doughty and Fergus, *The Purple Martin*, a concise natural history of the bird and its centuries-long companionship with people: www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/doupur.html

Table of contents and excerpt: www.utexas.edu/utpress/excerpts/exdoupur.html

☞ Two new field guides dedicated to hummingbirds:

A Field Guide to Hummingbirds Of North America (one of the Peterson series of field guides) by Sheri L. Williamson. The guide includes Mexico and covers 31 species of hummers. A photographic guide, it relies on photos rather than illustrations; but where suitable photos for a species don't exist, illustrations are provided. The author is a veteran hummer bander with many years' experience and a scientific outlook. Publisher: Houghton Mifflin.

Hummingbirds Of North America, A Photographic Guide, by Steve N.G. Howell, is slightly larger in size; it covers the ABA area and so deals with 24 species. Photos are equally good and the range maps are said to be excellent. Publisher: Academic Press, Natural World.

☞ From the TX-butterfly list-serve: *Butterflies Of Cascadia* by Bob Pyle. This field guide includes 192 species found in Washington, Oregon, and surrounding areas. (Many are common nationwide.) It contains extensive information, personal stories, verse, references, and historical notes on each species, including caterpillar food plants, flight period, and habitat. Order from Seattle Audubon Society, 8050 35th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115 (\$36.44 includes first-class shipping).

Audio and Video Hits

☞ “Songs of Warblers of North America” by Borrer and Gunn. (Cornell Lab in association with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.) This recording should still be available commercially.

☞ Nature butterfly video, “On the Wings of the Monarch,” traces the long-distance migration of these fascinating butterflies to their overwintering sites in Mexico. Libby Graham hosts and Bernie Alan of PBS narrates. Shot on location in Mexico, Santa Barbara, San Diego, and Kansas, this 47-minute documentary includes informative interviews with monarch expert Dr. Lincoln Brower.

Hot Websites

☞ For honing your plant ID skills (especially useful in winter or early spring), Jon Brandt recommends: www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/syllabus/twigkey/key1.html

☞ Tick and tick-borne disease information can be found at: www.ticktexas.org
www.geocities.com/HotSprings/Oasis/6455/texas-links.html
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/list_tickborne.htm
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/stari/index.htm
www.tdh.state.tx.us/news/ac060501.htm

☞ For lots of butterfly info, see: TheButterflySite.com

☞ To learn about owls, go to: www.owlpages.com

☞ For those interested in learning to interpret the radar imagery of bird migration, go to this Clemson University website and click the Introduction link: virtual.clemson.edu/groups/birdrad

☞ To read Audubon's Bird Conservation Newsletter, an electronic periodical, visit: www.audubon.org/bird/news.html

It highlights the news, events, and upcoming meetings of Audubon's Bird Conservation Program.

☞ Mike Quinn, Invertebrate Biologist at TPWD, recommends bee

and wasp websites, with this caution:

“A swarm is merely a honey bee colony in search of a nesting site. A swarm generally consists of a mated queen bee along with hundreds or thousands of accompanying worker bees. Swarming bees are not normally aggressive and can, in most cases, be approached safely. Unless you are an experienced beekeeper, however, it is best to avoid getting too close to swarming bees. Bees in swarms may, on occasion, sting intruders who venture too close.

And, “Bee swarms should not be killed indiscriminately. Bees are beneficial insects, helping pollinate flowers and vegetables. Unless a swarm is causing a distinct problem and cannot be tolerated, it should be left alone. Most honey bee swarms will leave a resting site within a few hours. Eliminating possible points of entry by bees into buildings and removing other potential nest sites is the best way to prevent serious problems with bees around structures.” Here are a few websites: insects.tamu.edu/extension/bulletins/1-1791.html
dallas.tamu.edu/insects/insects.tamu.edu
agnews.tamu.edu/bees/whattodo.htm

Magazine Articles of Note

☞ Jon Brandt calls attention to the article “1491” by Charles C. Mann, in the March 2002 issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*. “I found the article very interesting, since it raised some issues I'd seldom thought of before: what the indigenous population of the Americas was before Europeans arrived; what was the impact of Native Americans on their surroundings (and their function as a keystone species in ecosystems); and the possible influence of pre-Columbian people on the soils and vegetation of the Amazon basin.”

☞ Michelle Haggerty brings to our attention the May 2002 issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine* and the article, “Greening the Cities,” which features the urban wildlife biologists who devote so much of their time and energy to our Master

Naturalist program, statewide and locally. For many naturalists, the program would not exist without their efforts. The article also mentions the Master Naturalist program and how its volunteer services assist TPW. We join with Michelle in thanking each one—biologist and volunteer—for his or her continued hard work!

☛ The May issue of the Ecological Society of America's journal, *Ecological Monographs*, features the article "Parasite (*Ribeiroia Ondatrae*) infection linked to amphibian malformations in the western United States." The study is the collaborative and interdisciplinary effort of Pieter Johnson of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, academic researchers, and federal scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The paper describes the results of a broad-scale field survey that suggests that a parasite may be responsible for many of the abnormalities found in amphibians of the western United States.

In tracing the ecology life cycle of *Ribeiroia*, the research team noted that the final developmental stage depends upon a bird or mammal to eat an infected amphibian or fish. Eggs released via bird or mammal feces then invade the tissue of *Planorbella*, an aquatic snail, which they found to be a significant indicator of both the presence and abundance of the parasitic infection. Furthermore, *Planorbella* and parasitic diseases increase in artificially created wetlands, an increase that may be encouraged by nutrient pollution from fertilizers and cattle. For more information on the Ecological Society and its activities, visit ESA's web site:

www.esa.org

☛ Cliff Shackelford, Texas Partners in Flight Coordinator at TPW, announces the latest issue of the *Flyway* newsletter, an annual Texas Partners in Flight (TX PIF) publication. This issue includes articles on "Mountain Plovers: A Texas Perspective"; "The Moral is: Don't Mess With a Cuckoo's Nest";

"Invasive Aquatic Weeds in Texas, Control Strategies, and Native Birds"; and "Kids' Urban BioBlitz: Introducing Young Minds to Nature" by Kelly Bender. To obtain a copy, email Clifford.Shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us, type the word "flyway" in the subject line, and include only your name and address in the message. ☛

Community Tree Planting Grant Available

A 2003 Community Tree Planting Grant is available through National Tree Trust, a nonprofit tree planting organization. NTT has grants available for tree seedlings for Spring 2003 through the Community Tree Planting program. This is a great way to beautify your community or replant a neglected area. Seedlings are available for delivery January through April 2003.

The main requirements for the grant are: Trees must be planted on public land; the project must utilize volunteers for planting and/or maintaining seedlings; matching funds are required, which may include volunteer hours, donated items, and non-federal moneys; two years of annual reporting are required for each grant.

Visit www.nationaltreetrust.org to receive more information about the program and to download an application. Seedlings are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. This is a two-part application process, with the Seedling Request Form due May 31, 2002, and the Project Information Form due October 1, 2002. Applications will not be considered if any forms are incomplete or submitted after their deadlines. ☛

News from TMN

Celebrate Biodiversity Month—May 2002. Throughout May, scientists, educators, and citizen groups across the country have been organizing related activities. The Biodiversity Month website is at: www.biodiversitymonth.org.

Also, May 22 was designated United Nations International Day

for Biological Diversity.

May's celebrations are part of the International Biodiversity Observation Year (IBOY) 2001-2002, an initiative of DIVERSITAS, and an international program on biodiversity science. For more information, call Program Assistant Stella Salvo at 970-491-1984 or go to the IBOY website at: www.nrel.colostate.edu/IBOY ☛



(Unless otherwise specified, all phone numbers use a 512 area code.)

Volunteer Project Contacts

For information about ongoing volunteer opportunities with the following organizations, contact the designated person:

- ♦ **Austin Nature & Science Center.** Melissa Burton, 444-0768, melissab@bga.com (plants, wildlife)
- ♦ **Austin Preserves (central, eastern).** Renee Barrera, 327-7723, Renee.Barrera@ci.austin.tx.us (plants, trails, non-native species removal)
- ♦ **Barton Creek Habitat Preserve.** Mike Wiesner, 301-2206. (plants)
- ♦ **Hornsby Bend.** Dan Rivas, 443-5496 (environmental education)
- ♦ **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.** Daniel Dietz, 292-4200, x262, ddietz@wildflower.org (plants)
- ♦ **Native Plant Society.** Sue Wiseman, 259-4106, Swiseman@ccsi.com (plants)
- ♦ **Sierra Club.** Jackie McFadden, 990-9396, eeant@austin.rr.com (environmental education)
- ♦ **Travis Audubon Society.** Stennie Meadours, 239-2505, Stenmead@aol.com (birds)
- ♦ **TPWD.** Mark Klym or Kelly Bender, 389-4644, mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us kelly.bender@tpwd.state.tx.us (special events, plants, wildlife)
- ♦ **Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge.** Jean Nance, 259-0299, snance@mail.utexas.edu (birds, plants, special events)

Monitoring Opportunities

☛ Texas Nature Trackers

projects coordinated by TX Parks/Wildlife or partner organizations. A variety of projects across the state:

♦ TX Horned Lizard Watch.

Survey the Texas state reptile on your property or in public areas. Call 800-792-1112 x7011.

♦ **TX Monarch Watch.** Monitor migration of butterflies on your property. For monitoring info and tagging kits, call TPWD, 800-792-1112 x4464. To report monarch sightings, call the Monarch Watch hotline at 800-468-9719.

♦ **TX Mussel Watch.** Gather info about freshwater mussels native to your area. To volunteer, call Bob Howells, aquatic biologist, 830-866-3356, or Ann Miller, outreach coordinator, 800-792-1112 x7011.

♦ **TX Amphibian Watch.** Partner with North American Declining Task Force. Monitor frogs/toads during breeding season. Information will help scientists better determine decline of Texas amphibian populations. Call Ann Miller, 912-7025, ann.miller@tpwd.state.tx.us.

☛ **Project Prairie Birds** is a citizen-science project. Collect basic field data and help answer questions about Texas' wintering sparrows and their avian grassland neighbors. Call Cliff Shackelford, 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4970.

☛ Adopt-A-Species Projects.

Take place on public properties that support populations of rare TX plants/animals. Learn monitoring techniques. Volunteers agree to continue monitoring for set period of time. (Not available in all parts of state.) 800-792-1112 x7011.

☛ **Insect collecting/identifying activity at ANSC.** Melissa Burton needs volunteers to help collect and identify aquatic insects monthly. For details, contact her at 444-0768, melissab@bga.com.

Wild Basin Wilderness

☛ Volunteers function as **ambassadors for Wild Basin.** There are opportunities in educational programs and tours, trail

maintenance, and office and gift shop. Call the Wild Basin office at 327-7622 for more information, or: www.wildbasin.org/html/volunteer.html

Around Austin

☛ **Help create wildscape.** Becker Elementary. Goals include tree installations in conjunction with TreeFolks, plant propagation, workshops to train teachers how to integrate wildscapes into curriculum. Contact rickchafey@hotmail.com, 444-5445.

☛ **Neighborhood Greenway Planning,** sponsored by Austin Metro Trails & Greenways. Work with neighborhood organizations to develop local greenway plans. Assist in assessing current conditions, restoration opportunities, possible trail locations, and other improvements. Contact Jeb Boyt, 467-0753, jeboyt@hotmail.com, www.austinmetrotrails.org.

☛ **City of Austin Xeriscape Board** needs board members. Meet monthly at the City of Austin Water Conservation Department offices (downtown) for two-hour planning session, second Tuesday of each month, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Duties include planning xeriscape projects on City of Austin property and participation in some events, including Flora-rama and the weekend Xeriscape School. Contact Tom Neale at 442-8807.

☛ **Ongoing. McKinney Roughs** offers volunteer opportunities at the Education/Visitor Center, as tour or trail guides, gardener, and animal and education assistants. Call 303-5073 or 800-776-5272, or visit: www.lcra.org/lands/roughs/volunteer.html.

New. Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Capital Area Council. One day during the week of June 17-21. Volunteers needed to help with an outdoor nature day at summer Day Camp. Volunteers are responsible for planning a naturalist/educational outing at a location within 30 minutes of Austin for about 40 children ages 5-13. Call John Koonz at 246-9554, koonz@geoblox.com; or

Mina Loomis at 454-1237, mkloomis@texas.net.

New. Sponsored by Friends of Streptanthus. (Texas Parks & Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, City of Austin, Travis County, LCRA, Nature Conservancy and volunteers.) Need volunteers to survey and locate *Streptanthus Bractatus* (the Bracted Twistflower) on public lands in Travis County for seed collection later. Goal is to collect a store of seed, conduct a genetic evaluation of the plant, cultivate more seed, and establish protected (caged) colonies in the current and former range. Contact Flo Oxley at the Wildflower Center, 292-4200 ext 160.

New. Salvage native wildflowers and grasses from a South Congress Avenue development (6 acres) that is currently under site-plan review. Project will take place during the weekends of May and early fall if necessary. Contact: Rene Barrera, 327-7723, pager 802-8061.

New. Bright Leaf trail maintenance. Sat. June 1, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm. Sponsored by Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept, Central Texas Trail Tamers, American Hiking Society, and Friends of Bright Leaf State Natural Area.

Directions to Bright Leaf: Take 2222 west of Mopac. Go one block west of the light at Mesa, and turn south onto Creek Mountain until it dead-ends. Turn right onto Old Bull Creek Rd. Parking lot is on the left.

Contact: Beck Runte 453-3804 rmrunte@yahoo.com or Jeff Hershey, Park Manager, 459-7269 jeffrey.hershey@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Special notes: wear work clothes, long pants (for poison ivy), gloves, sunscreen, eye protection. Bring friends, snacks, water, tools (picks, shovels, bow saws, limb loppers).

Record volunteer service hours on the proper form and mail to CAMN, 301 Nature Center Way, Austin, TX 78746. Or, you can now **go online** to report volunteer/advanced training hours directly on our website at camn.org! Check it out!

Checklist for submitting volunteer projects for approval:

1.	Name of sponsoring organization (for example, Sierra Club)
2.	Short description of project needs (for example, need volunteers to work with after-school youth ages 6-10 in nature science projects including: wildscaping, wild-life and plant survey work, aquatic biomonitoring.)
3.	Date/time
4.	Location
5.	Contact name, phone number and/or email
6.	Special notes (for example, bring water. Wear gloves. No bathroom.)

Remember to get approval before beginning any projects you wish to have considered for volunteer credit, if they are not pre-approved. To get a project approved, submit detailed info to **Rick Chafey**, 444-5445, camnvoc@yahoo.com. ☞

Advanced Training



Remember to record advanced training time from programs at our general meetings on your tally sheet!

☞ **The Wildflower Center.** 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin, TX, 78739; www.wildflower.org. Call 292-4200 for information and registration. (Many programs meet CAMN requirements but topics vary; confirm with Debra Cerda.)

☞ **Native Plant Summer Institute.** Austin Community College and The Wildflower Center offer two college-level courses: **Native Plants of Texas** and **General Botany**, May 28-July 3. Service Learning and Environmental Projects; Creating Schoolyard Habitats; Aldo Leopold Education Project; Project Learning Tree, and more! For more info, call 454-3774 or visit the ACC website

(www.austin.cc.tx.us) or The Wildflower Center website (www.wildflower.org).
 ☞ **Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. Project WILD.** You must pre-register for all workshops. Facilitator training requires previous training. For info, call 800-792-1112 x4369.
 ☞ For information on **Education Programs at McKinney Roughs Environmental Learning Center**, call 303-5073 or 1-800-776-5272, x8004.
 ☞ **Texas Monarch Watch Workshop.** Oct. 8-10, Johnson City, at Bamberger Ranch. For more info, contact Margaret Bamberger at selah@tstar.net or call 830-868-4639.

Bamberger Ranch Workshops
 Note: Bamberger Ranch continues to offer workshops to Master Naturalists at half-price. Discount not reflected below.

- Sep 21**, 8:30am-4:30pm
Stewardship Workshop, \$90/person
- Sep 28**, 8:30am-4:30pm
Water Workshop, \$90/person
- Oct 5**, 8:30am-4:30pm
Grasses Workshop, \$90/person
- Oct 26**, 8:30am-3:30pm
Grassland Range Mgmt Field Day, \$60/person
- Oct 27**, 8:30am-4:30pm
Trees & Shrubs Workshop, \$90/person

☞ **Informal Classes at UT Austin.** Call 471-0270.
 ☞ **TMN New Chapter Coordinator's Training** May 31st and June 1st at Bamberger Ranch. If anyone is aware of individuals who have expressed interest in developing a new chapter anywhere across the state, contact Michelle Haggerty and she will send them an invitation.

Kelly Bender also notes that although this "course is designed for new chapters, it's also good for new officers and other leaders of the organization. I really encourage member from our most recent classes to think about attending. This organization survives and thrives only because of the wonderful leadership of our volunteer members. You own CAMN, and it's your enthusiasm that continues to improve it year after year. Who

knows... there might even be scholarship money available to help folks make the trip. I have more electronic information for those who are interested. You can contact Kelly Bender at 303-5943, or kelly.bender@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Conservation Corps. Herbarium Training

What is a herbarium? A herbarium is a collection of dried plant specimens used for scientific research.

Herbaria represent records of plants and plant communities at a particular time in a given place. Herbarium collections provide a record of the geographic distribution of species, diversity within species and plant communities, and a reference for plant identification.

When is the training? Training will take place on three consecutive Saturdays: June 1, June 8, and June 15. Attendance at all three training sessions is required to become a certified herbarium volunteer.

Topics to be covered:

- ◆ Plant Taxonomy and Identification: Sat., June 1, 9 am-4 pm.
- ◆ Plant Collection and Pressing Techniques: Sat., June 8, 8 am.-2 pm.
- ◆ Specimen Mounting and Labeling: Sat., June 15, 9 am. - 1 pm.

How much does it cost?

There is no charge for the training. We will ask that you volunteer to collect for the herbarium for a minimum of six months (3 months in the spring and 3 months in the fall) following the training.

For more information or to sign up for the training, contact Flo Oxley at (512) 292-4200 ext. 160, or email her at oxley@wildflower.org.

Remember to get approval for any training you wish to have qualified for advanced training credit, if not already pre-approved. To get approval, submit info to Debra Cerda, 420-9717. ☞

June 2002 Certification and Amnesty

To be certified this June, you must have completed the required Master Naturalist Training courses, 40 hours of volunteer work, and 8 hours of advanced training by May 20. Your volunteer and advanced training hours may be submitted by mailing in the Tally Sheet to the address on the sheet or by using our website (camn.org) either to download the Tally Sheet Form or to submit the hours directly to the Secretary. If you wish to have a form mailed to you, please call Winnie at 282-3125.

Those of you who desire to take advantage of the amnesty program which ended May 20 need to meet the same requirements as listed above. If you have not met these requirements, you will need to retake the required courses unless you have extenuating circumstances.

Certification is not required for you to participate in the Master Naturalists Program; however, you should report your volunteer and advanced training hours so that we know that you are interested in staying in the program.

Contact Winnie Spitz, Adm.

Secretary, at CAMNweb@aol.com or call her at 282-3125 for more information. ☞

What's New

☛ **Richard Moya Park** is now open on weekends, 8am to 9pm. If anyone wishes to conduct surveys at other times, submit a special request and fax to Dan Perry at 854-6474.

☛ Rick Chafey, Volunteer Opportunities Committee (VOC) Chairman, has set up this **new email address for CAMN VOC:** camnvoc@yahoo.com

You can use it to submit volunteer projects for approval or for other related volunteer business. ☞

Website Designer Needed

Travis Audubon is looking for a (volunteer) Website Designer for the Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory website. "Several volunteers are ready to help with this project, but we need someone to take the lead. If you have Web design experience and would like to take over the HBBO website, contact Rob Fergus at 347-7572 or fergus@travisaudubon.org."

"Redevelopment of the HBBO

website has lots of possibilities, but many needs to publicize and report research results (monthly bird surveys, hawk watch, MAPS bird banding (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship), purple martin research colony, Project Prairie Bird and ISS shorebird surveys). I will also be there to assist you," says Tim Hissam (Interim Director of Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory, a volunteer position) ☞

CAMN *Field Notes* is a bi-monthly publication for members of the Capital Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists.

We welcome all input. Submissions may be edited for clarity or brevity.

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