

CAMN Officers & Committees

Officers:

President: Melissa Macdougall, 445-4406

Vice-President: Dan Burke, 821-1628

Treasurer: Sue Wiseman, 259-4106

Administrative Secretary:

Ann Syptak, 894-0182

Recording Secretary:

Heidi Wittenborn, 267-5147

At-large Board Members: Margaret

Hill, mhill16@austin.rr.com, and

Greg Walton, 483-5834

Communications Committee

Newsletter: Jean Nance, 259-0299,

snance@mail.utexas.edu

Website: Julia Gregory, hm: 303-3238,

wk: 389-4973, jgregory1@austin.rr.com

Press releases: Kelly Bender 303-5943,

austin-urban@austin.rr.com

Curriculum Committee

Curriculum: open

Advanced training: Debra Cerda,

420-9717, training@camn.org

Hospitality Committee

Heidi Wittenborn, 267-5147

Volunteer Opportunities Committee

Tim Scoggins, 459-6865,

camnvoc@camn.org

Visit us on the Web: www.camn.org

Email us at: camn@egroups.com



CAMN Elections in May!

The CAMN Nominating Committee, headed by Norm McGinnis, has recommended this slate of candidates for officers and Board members for the upcoming year 2004-2005:

President: Dan Burke

Vice-President: Theresa Bayoud

Treasurer: Sue Wiseman (continuing for another term)

Administrative Secretary: Ann Syptak (continuing for a 2nd term)

Recording Secretary: Linda Nolan

At-large Board Members: Margaret Hill (continuing for a 2nd term) and Scott Gibbons

Be sure to come to the May General Meeting to vote in this election, and to congratulate the graduates of our spring class. Plus, we'll have food! ☞

Statewide Updates

- This spring, 13 chapters statewide (out of about 30 chapters overall) offered Master Naturalist training classes. Those chapters are: Heart of Texas, Gulf Coast, Rio Grande Valley, North Texas, Western Edwards Plateau, Capital Area, Alamo Area, Galveston Bay Area, Trans Pecos, Mid-Coast, Hays County, Post Oak, and Rolling Plains. Three to five new chapters are expected to form this year.
- It's not too early to start planning to attend the 5th Annual Meeting and Advanced Training at MO Ranch in Hunt, on October 22-24, 2004. The Hill Country Chapter will help with local arrangements and hosting the meeting.
- In February, a team from the Texas Master Naturalist program traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, to train approximately 23 state Fish and

Game agencies and Extension agencies in ways to develop their own Master Naturalist program. Many of the states already had some existing natural resource volunteer program. Another national training session will be held in August in Virginia. Michelle Haggerty says, "All eyes are on you. Keep up the great job!"

- According to the Independent Sector, the value of volunteer time has increased by nearly 65 cents—from \$16.54/hour in 2002, to \$17.19/hour in 2003. When first calculated in 1980, it was \$7.46/hour. The value is based on average hourly earnings for private non-agricultural workers, as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, then increased by 12 percent to estimate fringe benefits. For more information on the Independent Sector, visit www.independentsector.org. ☞

Calendar

☞ **Book Club.** Last Monday of the month, 7:00pm (6:30 for socializing), at the Cafe of Central Market South.

☞ **May General Meeting.** Weds, May 26th, 6:30pm. **Election of Officers and Recognition of the Spring Class.** Refreshments will be provided.

☞ **June General Meeting.** Weds, June 30th: **Insects of the Texas Lost Pines, Part II.** Scott Fleenor and Dr. Stephen Taber will conclude their April talk on this topic, based on the research discussed in their book, *Insects of the Texas Lost Pines*.

Inside: Sally Scott is our CAMN Profile, Walt and Jane Brown send us an update from Belton, and much more!

Field Notes



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CAMN Profiles



Sally Scott (fall 2000) talks about her lifelong love of nature, and the paths she followed along the way

to CAMN and the Texas Master Naturalists.

I grew up in New Jersey, with parents who enjoyed hiking and being in the woods. My father liked to brag that he knew the names of all the trees, and my mother was a gardener. Later my father became a tree farmer in Virginia (a hobby).

My love of nature continued with the incentives to grow victory gardens during WWII. I remember being proud of my tomatoes and lettuce. I was a girl scout and worked on a wildflower identification badge. The violets and Jack in the pulpits were my favorites.

In college I started out with a major in Biology but ended with an Education degree and a marriage and four children in between. We (my husband, and four kids and I) moved to Austin in 1971. My parents retired and followed me the following year. They bought the house I am now living in, which backs up to Georgia Lucas's property (now Bright Leaf State Natural Area).

In 1998, I joined about a dozen others in founding the Friends of Bright Leaf. Later while president of that group, I was persuaded to participate in the docent training given by Wild Basin to help develop a similar docent program at Bright Leaf. I enjoyed it so much I ended up volunteering at Wild Basin as well as Bright Leaf.


After a close friend completed the Master Naturalist course, and the new Ranger, Jeff Hershey, recommended the program, I enrolled in the fall 2000 class. At that time I was running an after-school program for special needs children. I really enjoyed taking the children on weekly field trips and introducing them to woods and my love of nature and science.

Because of my father's increasing dependence on me and my husband's


illness, I made a decision to retire. Shortly afterward, Wild Basin offered me a job as a part time ranger. My early Childhood masters degree came in handy as I assisted Carol Knepp in developing a "tiny footprints" program for preschool children. I have been volunteering with this program ever since. Wild Basin had a Dell grant to do outreach for low income children in East Austin Schools. I was hired to do this program called "Wee Trails." This was great fun, for both the enthusiastic children and myself.

I have encouraged many of the docents and board members of Bright Leaf to also become Master Naturalists. I am proud of Beck Runte, Ann Syptak, and Nancy and Mary Ann Woolley's accomplishments.

As a recent widow I refocused my energies on my own yard. With the help of John Barr, Bright Leaf member and native plant society member, we have removed most of the non-native species, replacing them with native plants. I recently received, thanks to Jane Tillman and her "crew," the Backyard Wildlife Habitat certificate.

I am sure this is just the beginning of my environmental advocacy. As a member of CAMN, Audubon, the Native Plant Society, and the Nature Conservancy, there is always something to keep me busy. 



The **Austin Butterfly Forum** holds its monthly meeting on the 4th Monday of every month (except July, August and December) at 7:00 pm at the Zilker Botanical Garden Center. The door will have a "Closed" sign, but will be unlocked. Go in and turn right into the large meeting room. For more information about ABT, visit www.austinbutterflies.org 

CAMNers Demonstrate— A Wildscape by Jane Brown


Two Capital Area Master Naturalists, Walt and Jane Brown (fall 2000) have had their Wildscape in Belton designated as a Texas Parks and Wildlife Wildscape Demonstration Site. The only other site in Bell County is the 95 acres of Temple College, for

which (what a coincidence) Walt was instrumental in attaining the Wildscape designation.

Unlike the expanse of the Temple College campus with its acres of native perennials, trees and shrubs, the Browns' yard is a typical urban lot. With only one-half acre to work with, the Browns have packed in native trees such as Mountain Laurel, Mexican Plum, Texas Redbud and Lacey Oak. Among the shrubs are Evergreen Sumac, Arroyo Sweetwood, Whitebrush, and American Beautyberry. Several salvias, Pavonia, Pidgeonberry, Zexmenia, and Skullcap are listed among the perennials that they remember planting. And of course, there are the 50 antique or English roses that live happily with the natives. It's a jungle out there!

This April, the yard was visited by over 100 people who attended the Belton Iris Society Show at the Methodist Church across from the Browns' garden (location is everything). Since their home is located in downtown Belton on a well-traveled street, the garden attracts a lot of attention, especially since the modest Browns put the TPWD honkin' big sign in the front yard. However, they stopped short of putting a spotlight on the sign at night.

The Browns applied for the Demonstration site designation because they felt it was important for other homeowners to know that they could provide habitat for wildlife without having acres to dedicate to the project. Wildscapes can be an apartment's balcony, a patio, or a little half-acre in downtown Belton that has nesting chickadees, nectar and host plants for Giant Swallowtail butterflies, and regular visits from a daycare class. Now that is a Wildscape!

If any CAMNer is in the Belton area and would like to stop by and see an urban Wildscape in action, the Browns would be overjoyed to welcome fellow Master Naturalists. Just telephone them at (254) 939-1635 or email them at waltbrown@earthlink.net so they will be sure to be at home to greet you. Their home is easy to find at 414 N. Penelope Street in Belton, just behind the honkin' big sign! 

VOLUNTEER TODAY

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

Volunteer Project Contacts

For information about volunteer and training opportunities with the following organizations, ask the contact person:

- ♦ **Austin Nature & Science Center.** Melissa Macdougall, 445-4406, melissa_mac@sbcbglobal.net (plants, wildlife)
- ♦ **Austin Nature Preserves.** Rene Barrera, Rene.Barrera@ci.austin.tx.us, 327-7723 (plants, trails, endangered species)
- ♦ **Barton Creek Habitat Preserve.** Mike Wiesner, 301-2206 (plants)
- ♦ **Hornsby Bend.** Dan Burke, camn@sbcbglobal.net (environmental education)
- ♦ **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.** Claude Morris, 276-9611, cmorris@tea.state.tx.us (plants)
- ♦ **Native Plant Society.** Sue Wiseman, 259-4106, Swiseman@ccsi.com (plants)
- ♦ **Sierra Club.** Jackie McFadden, eeant@austin.rr.com, 990-9396 (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 austin-urban@austin.rr.com (special events, plants, wildlife)
- ♦ **Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge.** Jean Nance, 259-0299, snance@mail.utexas.edu (birds, plants, special events)
- ♦ **City of Austin Xeriscape Advisory Board.** Cathy Nordstrom, president, cnordstrom@austin.rr.com (Gardening Roadshow—promotes sustainable land use in neighborhood programs)
- ♦ **Campfires.** John Koontz, 246-9554, koontz@geoblox.com, or Mina Loomis, 454-1237, mkloomis@texas.net (naturalists leading youth)
- ♦ **Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve.** Carol Knepp, carol@wildbasin.org, 327-7622 (plants, interpretation)
- ♦ **McKinney Roughs and Westcave Preserve.** Lizzie Pincoff,

lpincoff@lcra.org, 776-5272 x2926

(docents/guides, gardening, educational programs)

➔ **NOTE:** Do not be confused by the similarly named Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (operated by City of Austin, Travis County, and other organizations) and the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge (part of the federal refuge system operated by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). Different areas with the same goal—preserving habitat for Central Texas endangered species.

New! Emerald Ash Borer Survey Project

In cooperation with USDA Forest Service, CAMN invites you to a volunteer training day on May 22, 2004, 12:00-4:00 p.m., at The Austin Nature and Science Center, 301 Nature Center Drive, Austin.

Stephen Clarke needs volunteers to help with ongoing surveys that will monitor our local community for the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle and other non-native pests. Austin has been targeted by the USDA as a potential hot spot for these pests due to extensive plantings of ornamental ash.

The training will have both classroom and field components. Monitoring techniques will be explained and all necessary supplies to conduct the surveys will be supplied. Wear appropriate clothing as you will be working outdoors. Water will be available on site.

If you want to attend the volunteer training for this project, or have any questions, contact Norman McGinnis, home phone: 512.339.7567. Email: normanm@mejassociates.com

Sponsoring partner:

Stephen Clarke, Entomologist, Forest Health Protection, USDA Forest Svc., 701 N. 1st St., Lufkin, TX 75901 ☞

New! Cool House Tour

Volunteers are needed for the "Cool House Tour" on Sunday, May 23. Karen Stewart from the City needs volunteers either for a booth at Brykerwoods Elementary providing information about water conservation and creating backyard wildlife habitat, or at a home in central Austin that is

using rainwater harvesting.

One shift is 11:30-3:00 and the other is 3:00-6:30. Volunteers who are knowledgeable gardeners would be ideal. Volunteers will get free admission to the homes on the tour.

Contact Karen Stewart directly to sign up: karen.stewart@ci.austin.tx.us Water Conservation Specialist, Sr. Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Dept., City of Austin (512) 974-2978 fax: 974-6548 ☞

Monitoring Opportunities

☞ **Texas Nature Trackers** projects coordinated by Texas 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 to help scientists better determine decline of Texas amphibian populations. Contact Ann Miller, 912-7025, or email her at 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, x4970.

☞ **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. ☞

Hornsby Bend

Note: Hornsby Bend is generally open dawn to dusk, 7 days a week, for birding and nature study. However, that might be restricted from time to time, depending on the level of nationwide security alert, so be sure to check before heading out there.

☛ **Monthly surveys**, 2nd Saturday of each month at the Hornsby Bend Center on FM973. Hours are 7-11:30am., and 4pm. to dusk. Meet to tally species at 11:30am. Map and other info can be found at:

www.hornsbybend.org/

For more details, contact Russ Nelson, rnelson@centraltexasbirders.org.

☛ **Monthly birding field trip**, 3rd Saturday of each month, led by Rich Kaskan, from 7:30am-11am, meeting at the Hornsby Bend Research Center's parking lot.

☛ **Hornsby Bend Ecological**

Literacy Days, sponsored by the Hornsby Bend Partnership and the Center for Environmental Research. Held at the Hornsby Bend Center for Environmental Research on FM 973. Last Saturday of every month, 9am. - 1pm. (except when a holiday conflicts with the date; be sure to check with Kevin Anderson to confirm). Combine volunteer work with learning about local ecology, beginning with outdoor work (trail maintenance, habitat restoration, tasks in the native plant nursery) and ending with time to learn about local ecology -birds, bugs, and more! (approx. 2 hours work and 2 hours on local ecology.) Wear boots, work clothing; bring binoculars. Contact Kevin Anderson, Coordinator for the Center for Environmental Research, at 972-1960 or Kevin.Anderson@ci.austin.tx.us. The Hornsby Bend Partnership website is: www.sbs.utexas.edu/hornsby ☛

Bright Leaf State Natural Area

☛ Lead nature hikes, perform trail maintenance/non-native vegetation removal. *Training is required for docents.* For details, contact Nancy Woolley at nwoolley@austin.rr.com or 323-0544, or Beck Runte at 894-0182 or mrunte@yahoo.com. The park's website is: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/bright/ ☛

Bastrop/McKinney Falls State Parks

☛ **Training/volunteer**

opportunities. TPWD wants to partner with groups like CAMN to expand the interpretive education programs at our State parks that are a priority in the central Texas area are Bastrop and McKinney Falls State Parks. The goal is for both these parks to have a weekly guided tour of their natural and cultural resources.

For details, contact Chris Holmes, Regional Interpretive Specialist, at: Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. State Parks Division - Region V Rte. 1, box 11 Somerville, TX 77879 979 596 3709 x28 979 229 2886 (cell) 979 596 3719 (fax) ☛



New! Old Tunnel WMA

☛ **Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area** (near Fredericksburg).

Volunteers help answer the public's questions about bats, give presentations to the public, help with bat research, participate in herp surveys, and develop new trails and programs. Other opportunities are available, too, beside the main ones. Special incentives for volunteers include trips to places like Gorman Cave, Honey Creek, Government Canyon, trips to see interesting bat species, opportunities to collect free bat guano, etc.

For more information, contact Amy.Sugeno@tpwd.state.tx.us. ☛

Nightengale Archaeological Center

☛ **Tour guides are needed at the Nightengale Archaeological Center** at Kingsland, 9 miles west of Marble Falls on FM1431. The Center is a State Archaeological Landmark, owned by LCRA, and is operated mainly by the Llano Uplift Archeological Society. Over 100,000 artifacts have been found at the site, spanning over 10,000 years of history from the end of the Ice Age to pioneer times. The center is open 2-5pm for tours on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month except

December and January, but they would like to give tours every Saturday. To be a tour guide, you must attend at least one tour and read training materials. Other opportunities involve greeting guests in the museum, and maintaining trails and excavation pits. For more details, contact Chuck Hixson at chixson@tstar.net. The website for the Center is: www.lcra.org/community/nightengale.html ☛

Austin Nature & Science Center

☛ **Docent program and other volunteer opportunities** at ANSC. For details, contact Melissa Macdougall at 445-4406, melissa_mac@sbcglobal.net, or Clark Hancock at 327-8181. Horticulturist Elizabeth McVeety can always use horticultural assistance on weekdays. Contact her directly to arrange a time at 327-8181 or elizabeth.mcveety@ci.austin.tx.us. ☛

Wild Basin Wilderness

☛ **Volunteer ambassadors for Wild Basin.** Opportunities in educational programs and tours, trail maintenance, and office and gift shop. Call the Wild Basin office at 327-7622 or visit www.wildbasin.org/html/volunteer.html ☛

Around Austin

New! **Help water native plants** that are being grown in containers for use in city preserves. Requires about an hour once a week on Monday or Thursday. The location is in Zilker Park near the Nature Center. This is a good project for people who like plants and want to become more familiar with natives. Contact Scott Haywood at 804-0819 or s_haywood2001@yahoo.com. Also, Rene' Barrera needs **help installing greenhouse panels** at the same location. Contact Rene' at Rene.Barrera@ci.austin.tx.us. There's lots of important work to be done on city preserves! For more opportunities, ask Rene' or visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/cepreserves/downloads/winterpdf_rev_2.

☛ Wildlife Rescue &

Rehabilitation. www.wildlife-rescue.org

This organization rescues over 7,000 animals yearly, and needs many reliable volunteers. Volunteers must attend an orientation. After that, initial volunteer duties could include cage cleaning, laundry, dishwashing, preparing food, and setting up habitats to provide a comfortable recuperation. During spring and summer, sanctuary volunteers are responsible for hand-feeding hundreds of baby birds and mammals. The longer you volunteer, the more opportunities you will have to learn advanced care, like tube-feeding techniques or administering medications. Hours are flexible. Contact Margaret Deegan, volunteers@wildlife-rescue.org.

☛ Blackland Prairie Restoration, Popham Elementary School. Various times during the year.

Activities include planning campus plantings; planning and coordinating a grape arbor; accompanying children on field trips to local natural areas; helping students plant and identify native species for labeling; and maintaining the courtyard, prairie, and wildflower meadow. Contact: Ruth Sterling, 512-386-3750, 512-899-3938, rsterling@del-valle.k12.tx.us.

☛ Useful Wild Plants, Inc.

Help research native Texas plants and their uses. From their website:

“The Useful Wild Plants (UWP) Project sets a standard for studying plant uses throughout the world. The multi-volume work titled *The Useful Wild Plants of Texas, the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, the Southern Plains, and Northern Mexico* is the definitive economic botany study for the southern half of the United States and northern Mexico.” The project is under the auspices of The Useful Wild Plants, Inc.

For details, contact Kim Lindros, volunteer coordinator at UWP, at kimlindros@austin.rr.com or call the UWP office at 512-928-4441. Their website is www.usefulwildplants.org.

☛ Help Lead Nature Hikes.

3rd Saturday morning of each month at the Roy Guerrero/ Colorado River Park. CAMN is invited to help Travis

Audubon with a monthly bird and nature hike. It is hosted by Rob Fergus and/or Charles Stephens with Travis Audubon Society (TAS). Children ages 5-10 (with parent) are the main focus, but everyone is welcome. Contact Rob Fergus (fergus@travisaudubon.org) or Charles Stephens (charles_stephens@yahoo.com).

☛ Monthly Bird Surveys at Barton Creek Habitat Preserve.

Travis Audubon is conducting a monthly bird survey at The Nature Conservancy's Barton Creek Habitat Preserve off of Bee Caves Road. The survey is the first Saturday of the month, 7:30-11:30am. Previous birding experience isn't necessary. This beautiful preserve, not open to the public, has golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo habitat. For details, contact Maggie Burnett (899-0390, mburnett@austin.rr.com), or visit the TAS field trip page: www.travisaudubon.org/fieldtrips.html

☛ Diaz Freedom Community

Garden at Meadowbrook Apartments, W. Live Oak and S. 6th. Gardeners needed—volunteer opportunities exist from basic “eat-what-you-grow” or cooperative organic gardening to sponsoring a resident family or holding workshops. For info, call Victor Diaz, 447-8939, or Rick Chafey, 560-2606.

☛ Neighborhood Greenway

Planning, sponsored by Austin Metro Trails & Greenways. Work with neighborhood organizations to develop local greenway plans. Help assess current conditions, restoration opportunities, possible trails, etc. Contact Jeb Boyt, 467-0753, jeboyt@hotmail.com, or visit: www.austinmetrotrails.org.

☛ City of Austin Xeriscape

Advisory Board meets monthly at COA Water Conservation Department (Waller Center) every 2nd Tuesday from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Duties include planning the annual Garden Roadshow and participating in events promoting sustainable gardening practices. XAB seeks new board members. Contact Cathy Nordstrom at 346-6797.

☛ 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



Volunteer Opportunities at Barton Creek Preserve

All volunteer groups meet at the pavilion. Send email for directions. Swimming is allowed at Barton Creek as a treat after each volunteer workday. Overnight camping the Friday before can be arranged. Tools and gloves are provided, but you may bring your own equipment. Water and snacks will be available. Materials are paid for, but you may donate them also. Contact Preserve Mgr Dan Snodgrass or Land Steward Matthew Fagan for details:

NEW! Monitoring program at the Preserve for a rare plant, marbledseed. It is a forest wildflower and is endemic to the Hill Country. We would like to survey and GPS its population this spring and summer; GPS training will be provided. We are looking for volunteer surveyors (no minimum time commitment) and a volunteer survey leader (minimum time commitment two hours every two weeks). Work involves hiking into the Preserve and looking at flowers.

☛ **Grass seed collection consultant.** Matthew Fagan, land steward at BCHP, needs the help of a naturalist with experience in grass seed gathering, for a prairie grass restoration project. If you have collected seed at LBJWC or otherwise fit the bill, contact Matt (263-8878, mfagan@tnc.org) or Tim Scoggins (459-6865, scoggins@arlut.utexas.edu).

☛ **Prairie Grass Restoration Project.** The field in front of the old settler's cabin is an excellent place for a prairie restoration project. This is a large undertaking and will require either a prescribed fire or mowing to eliminate exotics, seed harvesting and planting, transect studies, etc.

☛ **Interpretive Prairie Grass Demonstration Project.** One of many interpretive education elements being created is an Interpretive Prairie Grass Demonstration Site for learning prairie grasses. Plots will be planted with local seeds of different grass species where

people can walk through and learn about the grasses we have in the Hill Country. Grass plots will be tagged with numbers to enable a pamphlet to be created for easy identification.

☛ **Tree Care and Database.** Need help with a new irrigation system to water a field full of planted hardwoods and to maintain the watering of the hardwoods while the system is under construction. To help, email Tim Scoggins, scoggins@arlut.utexas.edu.

☛ **Wetland Restoration Project.** Need help on a wetland restoration and prairie project at the old fish ponds, during the week from 10am to 3pm to dig up invasives, transplant plants, do research, or transect studies.

☛ **Volunteer Speakers.** Need individuals interested in speaking to groups such as Garden Clubs, Earth Day Celebrations, etc. For details, contact: Dan Snodgrass, Preserve Manager/Education Coordinator, The Barton Creek Habitat Preserve office: 263.8878, fax: 263.8695 ☛

Volunteer/Advanced Training Opportunities at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

☛ **Seed Collection for the Millennium Seed Bank**—an international effort to collect and bank seeds from plants around the world. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings, 8:30a.m. until noon. For details, call Marcia Hermann, (512) 292-4200 ext 103, or email her at Hermann@wildflower.org.

☛ **Display Garden Volunteers**
Join the gardeners who bring beauty to the Wildflower Center grounds. Gardeners work outdoors, usually Tues-Thurs mornings, weeding, mulching, planting, and helping in the greenhouses.

☛ **Education Volunteers**
Education is the heart of the Wildflower Center, and the most active way to participate is to become a docent. See section on Docents, below.

☛ **Land Restoration Volunteers**
Opportunities to help restore the land are available for those who want to work outdoors on trails and with research programs. Weekdays are

generally when help is needed. Visit: www.wildflower.org/?nd=volunteer

☛ **Wildflower Center Docents**

A docent's primary responsibility is to interpret the Wildflower Center for visitors. Tasks include working in the Visitor's Gallery, guiding tours, helping with children's programming, special events and festivals, and more. To become a docent, you must successfully complete training—program combines 8 weeks (48 hours) of classroom and field study with 8 weeks practical experience. Experience in natural science or education is not needed.

To sign up, visit the Docent Training page: www.wildflower.org/?nd=docent. Or, call Megan Murphy, Director of Volunteer Services, at 292-4200 x102 or email megan@wildflower.org. ☛

Volunteer Opportunity: Schoolyard Habitats Program

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) created the *Schoolyard Habitats Program* to meet the interest and needs of schools in creating and restoring wildlife habitat on school grounds.

Winnie Spitz is the Schoolyard Habitat Sub-Committee Acting Chair (282-3125, WLDFLOW333@aol.com). Committee members are Jane Tillman (794-0058), Corine Robbins (834-8917, coriner@hotmail.com), and Claude Morris (276-3595, CGMORRIS@flash.net).

For more program information, visit: www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats/createahabitatsite.cfm. Or contact Marya Fowler, NWF Field Education Coordinator for our area (fowler@nwf.org, 476-9805). ☛

Please submit service hours regularly (monthly would be nice)!

- Record volunteer hours on the proper form and mail to CAMN, 301 Nature Center Way, Austin, TX 78746.
- Or, **go online** to report volunteer and advanced training hours at camn.org.

➔ Remember to get approval before beginning any projects you wish to count for volunteer credit. Submit the info on the following checklist to Tim Scoggins, at camnvoc@camn.org. ☛

Checklist for submitting volunteer projects for approval:

1.	Name of sponsoring organization.
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, wildlife and plant survey work, aquatic bio-monitoring.)
3.	Date/time
4.	Location
5.	Contact name, phone number and/or email (the person who can be contacted for details about the activity).
6.	Special notes (for example, bring water. Wear gloves. No bathroom.)

Advanced

Training



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

☛ **The LBJ 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.

☛ **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.

☛ **Informal Classes at UT Austin.** Call 471-0270.

☛ **Texas Nature Trackers Programs**
For Texas Amphibian Watch Monitoring Workshops, Texas Mussel Watch Monitoring Workshops, contact Marsha Reimer 912-7062 or marsha.reimer@tpwd.state.tx.us.

NEW! Texas Amphibian Watch and Texas Mussel Watch Training Workshops. June 18-19. The Center

for Environmental Research, Hornsby Bend, 2210 South FM 973:

- *Amphibian Watch* classroom and field training: 5 pm. – 10 pm. Friday, June 18. Field review of amphibian calls Saturday evening, June 19.

- *Mussel Watch* classroom and field training: 10 am.–5:30 pm. Saturday.

Register for one or both of the workshops: \$10 per workshop. Meals are not included. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

To register or get more info, contact Roger Myers at rw.myers@sbcglobal.net or Melissa Macdougall at 445-4406. www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tracker

☞ **Travis Audubon Society** offers a variety of classes and field trips that are approved for advanced training.

☞ **Barton Springs Splash Lecture Series.** Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center hosts free lecture series every 2nd Thursday. 7pm at the Sheffield Center, Barton Springs bathhouse, Zilker Park. Call 481-1466 or 478-3170 for more info.

➔ **NOTE: Not all Splash lectures are approved for advanced training; confirm first with Debra Cerda.**

Reminder: Many, **but not all**, programs by local nature and environmental organizations are approved for CAMN Advanced Training. If in doubt, check with the Advanced Training Committee. With only 8 hours of advanced training required annually, it is up to each individual to choose wisely. The point is not to rack up hours (although you should certainly turn them all in), but to improve your knowledge and skills as a naturalist and volunteer.

To request advanced training approval for an activity, send complete info (what, where, when, etc.) to Debra Cerda at training@camn.org, or call her at 420-9717. This email address is for CAMN advanced training approvals only. Remember, all advanced training must be pre-approved. ☞

Peer Study Group Formed ☞

Inspired by the recent Shield Ranch “all-subjects” field day, **Art Souther** has proposed and started a peer field study group, describing it as a fun way “to share the field learning experience, taking a hands-on approach. The most

informal outing would be like the Shield Ranch situation where there was no focus on a particular subject. Other outings could choose a focus, like grasses, insects, butterflies, etc., but still be open to investigating whatever is interesting that we come across. The most formal outing would be one where we invite someone to come with us who has special expertise.”

This suggestion generated quite a bit of discussion and interest from the group, covering scheduling, focus, expectations, and more. To try to address the scheduling constraints, Art set up a Yahoo! calendar where people can mark the times they could come to sessions. If you have any limitations on distance, please note it in parentheses, for example, (25m) or (city). To reach the peer study session sign-up calendar, go to calendar.yahoo.com and sign in:

ID: peercamn

password: camnpeer

Art also assembled a list of some of his preferred field guides, with a request for other recommendations:

Plants:

Enquist: *Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country* (currently out of print; may be available at used bookstores)

Lynch: *Woody Plants of Austin and the Hill Country*

Niehaus: *Southwestern and Texas Wildflowers* (Peterson Guides)
Audubon Guide to North American Trees

Shinners and Mahler: *Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas* (heavy-duty)

Birds:

National Geographic Guide to Birds of North America

Sibley Guide to Birds

Audubon Master Guide to Birding

Insects:

How to know the Insects

Merritt/Cummings: *Intro to the Aquatic Insects*

How to Know the Beetles

Butterflies through Binoculars

Audubon Guide to Butterflies

Dragonflies through Binoculars ☞

Online Resources

- ❖ Jennifer McMahon (fall '00), the National Wildlife Federation's Outreach Coordinator for Texas Living

Waters Project, presented the February program on how the NWF and Texas Living Waters Project partners are working to ensure that environmental water needs—the fresh water needed to support healthy fish and wildlife populations—are recognized and supplied along with municipal, industrial, and agricultural needs. For information about the Project, see www.texaswatermatters.org.

- ❖ Mike Quinn (ento@satx.rr.com) has updated his webpage on Caterpillar Food Plants for Central Texas: home.satx.rr.com/txento/CenTexPlnts.pdf

- ❖ Mike also points out that you can find lists for various taxa and counties at TAMU's TIARA website: www.csdl.tamu.edu/tiara/

Plug in the taxa you want a list of, then click on "maps", then click twice on the county. The second time should yield the requested species list for that county.

- ❖ To see photos posted on our Yahoo! CAMN group website, go to groups.yahoo.com/group/camn/ and then click “Photo’s” on the left side of the page. If you’re unable to click those links on the left, you need to change your membership profile to get web access. Click “Edit my membership” at the top right side of the page and follow the directions from there. ☞

So Long, Farewell!

Tom Neale (class of summer '99) has been a familiar face to many of us since we joined the Capital Area Master Naturalists. One of our most active and dedicated members, he served as CAMN President (2001-2002), chaired the Curriculum Committee (2003-2004), and participated in many other volunteer and advanced training projects.

Sadly for us, Tom is leaving CAMN. The good news is that Tom and his wife, Eileen, are moving to Little Rock, Arkansas (not all that far away!), to pursue some exciting opportunities.

We wish them both the best, and we won't be surprised if we hear about Arkansas starting a Master Naturalist program before too long! ☞

Notes from the Field

☛ This info comes from Wade

Villanueva, a former CAMN member who moved to New Mexico.

“Two comets should be visible to the naked eye this month: Comets NEAT and LINEAR:

www.astronomy.com/Content/Dynamic/Articles/000/000/001/727bsdvn.asp

“The better of the two, NEAT, is visible now in the Western sky, especially with a pair of binoculars. It appears to arise from the horizon and then approach the Big Dipper as the month progresses. Here's another link to download an excellent Skymap in PDF format:

www.skymaps.com/skymaps/esmn0405.pdf

☛ An April discussion was started by Ann Syptak, who asked about the identity of **small caterpillars** dangling from strands of webs in her oak trees: “The caterpillar is about .5 inches long and .05 inches in diameter. It has a yellowish green body with a black head.”

Mike Quinn identified them as **Oak Leaf Rollers** (*Archips semifera*). He quoted an interview in the *Texas A&M Agriculture News* with Dr. Bart Dress, who explained the caterpillars were harmless to people, and said, “When disturbed, oak leaf rollers spin silken threads and dangle from leaves and branches. Other caterpillars that

dangle from silk threads include the spring and fall cankerworms, which are often called inchworms.”

“Oak leaf roller moths lay their eggs on twig tips and leaf buds of several different tree species. The eggs remain on the buds or twigs for about 10 months and begin to hatch in March. ... Because of the density and the number of trees, using insecticides to control the oak leaf roller is not feasible. Often the best course of action is to simply do nothing. Post oak trees have survived in South and Central Texas without human intervention through time, despite periodic pest outbreaks and resulting defoliation.” More information on the oak leaf roller and related species can be found in a newly-revised fact sheet (No. E-206) at the Cooperative Extension Bookstore website at tcebookstore.org.

Clark Hancock put it in perspective nicely: “Just yesterday we watched a parent Bewick’s wren using one to lead a fledgling to cover. It is interesting to see the intrinsic timing in natural systems. When insectivore birds need an easy supply of animal protein to help with young development they get help from silken threads dangling in our trees. In a couple of weeks these “inch-worms” will be history either food for some other creature or metamorphosed on its own life path. I find it kind of fun to look down on my

shirt and find a hitchhiker or two. It reminds me to savor the sublime.”

☛ Another discussion was started by a report that a track at Wild Basin was confirmed to be from a **mountain lion**. In 1993, the cougar was reclassified from the genus *Felis* into its own genus, *Puma*; the “Texas cougar” is *Puma concolor stanleyana*. An increase in reported sightings indicates that cougars could be moving back into the Hill Country. These websites were recommended for more information:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/wild/mammals/mountain_lion/

www.mountainlions-texas.org/index.html

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

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