



Gulf Coast Master Naturalists,

THURSDAY REPORT – 060420

CHAPTER MESSAGES

LOST BOOK Kate Hillhouse is looking for a family history book that she loaned to someone earlier this year. It is a red 8 1/2 by 11 book with the word Neely on the front cover, along with a photo that has head shots of 4 men and 1 woman. It is an inch thick and is bound with a clear plastic cover. Please let me know if you have her book or have seen it and know where it is. Thanks, Linda DknowlesPE@aol.com

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OPPORTUNITIES - REMINDERS

Houston Audubon Society's Birdathon Underway Now

Between now and April 30, teams of birders across the state will compete in the Houston Audubon's birdathon. The birdathon is a team effort in which the team members identify as many bird species as possible during a single 24-hour period. Teams raise pledges for contributions based on the number of birds seen. Any geographic area within the state of Texas may be covered and travel may be by any means except air. Two or more participants, who must stay within voice contact distance during the count, constitute a team. Prizes are given for the most birds seen, the most pledges raised, and several other categories - funniest story, muscle power award, and most mockingbirds seen. The Audubon Society's High Island Sanctuary is full of migrants now.

CO'NTACT: <<http://tonaudubon.org>> for more details or call (713) 932-1639.

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Permaculture & The Sustainable Society

Leisure Learning Unlimited Building
2990 Richmond Ave
Houston, TX

Tuesday, April 18, 25, May 9, 23 7PM-9:30PM

Sunday, April 30 9:30AM-5PM

This class is being offered by the Permaculture Guild of Houston. This class explains the permacultural perspective on how we can get a more sustainable society while creating a vastly more satisfying life for all. (\$70 + \$25 materials & food) For more information go to their website at

<http://www.urbanharvest.org/permaculture/index.html>

CONTACT: houstonperm@aol.com

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Introduction to Wetlands – Dr. John Jacobs

Houston Garden Center
1500 Hermann Dr
Houston, TX

Friday, April 21, 6:30PM-8:30PM

Another one of our favorite lecturers, Dr. John Jacobs (Extension Wetlands Specialist – Houston) will be here. This lecture is part of the series of the Master Urban Rancher program offered by the Texas Cooperative Extension and Harris County. Space is limited and there are a few spots open. If you are interested in attending, please make your reservation as soon as possible. There is a fee of

\$5 for lunch. Click here for directions to the [Garden Center](#). For more information visit [Master Urban Rancher](#)

CONTACT: Diana Todd at 281-855-5614

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Heiman House Garden – WaterSmart Landscaping Program

Armand Bayou Nature Center

Saturday, April 22, 8:30AM-12:00

Mark Bowen (author of Habitat Landscaping for Houston and Naturalistic Landscaping) has created some amazing designs!! I know you'll want to be part of the installation!! No previous gardening experience is necessary. We will be planting and mulching today.

The Heiman House is the building that houses the education offices. It's visible from the parking lot and the admissions building.

My office is in Clear Lake. If you're coming from North part of Houston, I can give you specific directions.

When you respond, please give the name with which project you'll be assisting.

I will provide water and work gloves. Please bring a shovel and trowel, although I will have some available.

Thanks so much for your continued help!!

CONTACT: Chris LaChance, WaterSmart Program Coordinator at Cell # 281-935-6124 or Work 281-218-0721

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Master Gardener Plant Sale & Symposium

3033 Bear Creek Dr

Houston, TX 77084

Saturday, April 22, 9AM-2PM (Plant Sale), 10AM-3PM (Symposium)

Topics will include WaterSmart Landscapes – Angela Chandler, Container Gardens - Suzanne Chapman – Mercer Arboretum, Basic Plant Care – Carol Brower – Extension Agent - Horticulture, and Habitat Gardening – Karen Breneman – Master Gardener & Master Naturalist. \$15 advance registration includes lunch, \$10 full day walk-in registration with no lunch and \$5 half day walk-in.

(**Note** - Places are still available for the symposium. Angela Chandler is doing the 10 am WaterSmart talk and I am doing the habitat gardening talk at 2. These two I think should qualify for AT for the MN's. I am not sure the container gardens by Suzanne Chapman from Mercer at 10 or Carol Brouwer's talk on plant care at 1 qualify – **Karen Breneman**)

CONTACT: 281-855-5600 or [Click here](#) for registration form

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Boy Scout Jamboree

Houston, TX

Saturday, April 22

TPWD will be hosting a booth at the Boy Scout Jamboree in Houston to target the youth of Houston and would like volunteers to help us talk about TPWD State Parks and living with wildlife.

CONTACT: Diana Foss at (281) 456-7029 or e-mail at diana.foss@tpwd.state.tx.us

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Bellaire Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 22, 9:30AM-Noon

TPWD will be hosting the See, Touch, and Feel booth to show the public what wildlife there is to see. Keith could use help.

CONTACT: Keith at (281) 456-7029 or e-mail at keith.crenshaw@tpwd.state.tx.us

A listing of **all up and coming Earth Day events:**

<http://www.houstonearthday.org/events.html#wm> – Houston Earth Day Guide – 2006 (*Thanks to Lan Shen for sending this in – THOR*)

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Earth Day Event

Armand Bayou Nature Center

8500 Bay Area Boulevard

Saturday, April 22, 10AM- 4PM

A celebration of community awareness about the part nature plays in the world. Come help us celebrate Earth Day with animal and farm life demonstrations, music, trail hikes, and more. Guided trail hikes, farm demonstrations, live reptile demonstrations, face painting, recycling information, pet adoptions, volunteer bake sale, pontoon boat ride, Native American flute circle, Gulf Coast Turtle and Tortoise Society animals, wildlife rehabilitation animals, and more! Location: Armand Bayou Nature Center

CONTACT: (281) 474-2551 or www.abnc.org

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Earth Day 2006

Blackwood Educational Land Institute

Hempstead, Texas

Saturday, April 22, Noon-5PM

Blackwood Institute is a living classroom that teaches us to explore the natural web of life and to develop a healthy respectful relationship with nature; a managed ecosystem with wooded acreage, natural spring pond, abundant plant and animal life with a 5,000 SF strawbale house, butterfly gardens, and stone labyrinth. Tours of the institute and learning programs will run from **12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM**. Tickets are \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family. Directions provided upon receipt of reservation. Visit www.blackwoodland.com for more information.

Payment accepted at the gate (cash or credit card) but reservations must be made via email at

CONTACT: amanda.tullos@hva.cc

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Piney Woods Wildlife Society – Sabine Woods Field Trip

Sea Rim State Park

Saturday, April 22- 8:30AM

The Texas Ornithological Society's Sabine Woods Sanctuary includes an isolated stand of live oaks that is among the most productive migrant traps along the entire upper Texas coast. During spring migration, the trees and shrubs in this small sanctuary attract thousands of migrant land birds. We will also check the willows boardwalk at Sea Rim State Park and other areas. Be sure to pack your lunch and bring water and insect repellent. It is just over a two-hour drive from Houston, but it is

well worth the effort. Please join us there for a day of easy birding in one of the premier spring birding areas in the country. Some stay in a motel in Winnie for a birding weekend. This way you can sleep in for an extra hour. Location: Sabine Woods Sanctuary Directions: Take I-10 East to Winnie. From Winnie, take TX 73 to Port Arthur, then TX 87 south to Sabine Pass. From Sabine Pass, continue on TX 87 west for 4.2 miles to the parking area on the north side of TX 87. Fee: \$5 fee for a 1-month pass (non-TOS members) Time: Meet at 8:30 am (see above) (2 hr+ drive - leave early)

CONTACT: Al Barr at (281) 443-6629 or albarra4@aol.com or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pineywoodswildlifesociety/>
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Rice Environmental Club Annual Conference Focusing on Air Pollution

Rice University

Herring Hall 100, the lecture hall

Saturday, April 22, 9AM- 4PM

Air Pollution: How Far Houston Has Come. This year's conference will cover the progress that Houston has achieved in air quality. A history of Houston's air pollution will be included, in addition to problems in ozone, particulate matter, air toxics, and health issues. Several perspectives will be featured from businesses, government, academics, health, and environmental organizations. The conference is free and open to the public with lunch provided. Come for a single presentation or for the whole day! Fee: Free

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Japhet Creek Spring Restoration Day - Buffalo Bayou Partnership Green Team

Corner of Emile and 4601 Clinton Drive

Saturday, April 22, 9AM – 12noon (meet at 9 am)

Restoring Japhet Creek as a Buffalo Bayou green finger will create pedestrian friendly connections from the historic Fifth Ward neighborhood and schools to the Buffalo Bayou hike and bike trail system. Location: Meet at the empty lot on the corner of Emile and 4601 Clinton Drive

CONTACT: Brian Herod at bjherod@gmail.com or Buffalo Bayou Partnership at (713) 752-0314

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Urban Nature Series - Wildflower Walk

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center

4501 Woodway Drive

Sunday, April 23, 2 p.m.

Learn about wildflowers while taking a wildflower walk through the forest.

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Lunch with the Birds - Nature Discovery Center

7112 Newcastle in Russ Pitman Park

Bellaire, TX

Tuesday, April 25, 12PM- 1PM

Look for spring migrants in Russ Pitman Park. Warblers, vireos, yellow-billed cuckoos, orioles, thrushes, and buntings are just a few of the migrants you may see. Location: Meet on the front porch at 12 noon Nature Discovery Center

CONTACT: (713) 667-6550

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Nature Quest 2006

Concan, Texas

Tuesday-Sunday, April 25-30

May 1-2, Images for Conservation 2-Day Intensive Nature Photography Workshop

Nature Quest has a reputation of being an intimate festival, really more like a gathering of old friends to share their passion for all things in nature. At the Saturday night Fiesta! Dinner, we are excited to announce our special guest **Bobby Harrison "Obsessed with the Ivory-billed Woodpecker"** will be on hand to entertain you with his life-long search, discovery, and conservation efforts for this bird thought previously to be extinct. Naturally Curious will again have their bookstore set up at House Pasture Cattle Company Wednesday afternoon through Saturday night and there will be a free Nature Quest Author's Book Signing before the dinner.

During Nature Quest you'll enjoy learning about native plants, wildflowers, butterflies, dragonflies, fishes, insects, birds, bats and other mammals, river ecology, geology, archeology, native and pioneer peoples, ethnobotany, star gazing, and more. Enhance your artistic skills with our many offerings in nature art, photography, and journaling classes. Don't miss out on the special opportunity to work with internationally acclaimed ICF Pro Tour photographers in the May 1-2 workshop intensive!

Join us for our 7th annual birding and nature festival offering over 100 expert-led field trips, seminars, workshops and evening activities that explore the natural wonders of the Texas Hill Country River Region, located 90 miles west of San Antonio, Texas. Headquartered in Concan, Texas, the festival is an exciting opportunity to get acquainted with scenic Uvalde County. - Sage Kawecki, Executive Director, Texas Hill Country River Region

CONTACT: Call 1-800-210-0380 or email info@thcrr.com today to receive a free festival guide or visit www.thcrr.com to view the information and download a registration form.

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On the Trail of Trash - Team Captain Briefing

Keep Houston Beautiful

3000 Richmond Avenue, Suite 350

Houston, TX 77098

Thursday, May 27, 8:00 am – 9:30 am

Join us for a Team Captain briefing so you can learn important details about participating in the inaugural "On the Trail of Trash" clean up. We will discuss Team Captain responsibilities and review event day activities. A final equipment and supply list will be distributed. The list will include refreshments and volunteer incentives. We very much hope you will be joining us.

Thank you, Robin Blut Diane Schenke Abel Gonzales

CONTACT: Robin Blut, Keep Houston Beautiful at 713-839-8855, ext. 11 or at

rblut@houstonbeautiful.org

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North American Bluebird Society (NABS) Convention

"Red, White, & Bluebirds"

San Antonio Airport Hilton

Wednesday-Sunday, April 26 - 30,

The convention will be hosted by the Texas Bluebird Society during Fiesta week to honor and promote bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting species. NABS is leading what many conservationists believe is the most successful campaign in conservation history to reverse the decline of a species. Speakers include David Luneau, "The King of Natural Cavities: The Ivory-billed Woodpecker"; Dr. Gary McCracken, "Bats Attack Insects Over Texas...Billions Perish!!!"; June Osborne, "Treasures of the Texas Hill Country"; and, Keith Kridler, "Bluebird Tales of Texas."

The NABS Annual Convention is a yearly event where bluebirders gather to share information, learn of new developments in bluebirding, enjoy programs, field trips, make new friends and renew old friendships. The cost starts at \$47/\$55 for 5-days or \$30/\$35 for a single day. Optional field trips and special events are extra. For more information visit the NABS website at

CONTACT: <http://www.nabs2006.com> or call 512.268.5678.

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Galveston County Group of Houston Audubon Society April Monthly Meeting

Rosenberg Library Wortham Auditorium

Galveston, TX

Thursday, April 27, 7PM

Dwight Peake will speak on Birds of Spring Migration

CONTACT: Charles Ferguson at (281) 331-5812

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Award/Grant Opportunities

The Garden Crusader Awards – Nominate Someone You Know

The Garden Crusader Awards were created by Gardener's Supply in 2001 to honor individuals who are improving the world through gardening. These enthusiastic men and women are planting trees and flowers, growing food, creating new green spaces, and teaching their friends and neighbors about the rewards of gardening.

In 2005, Garden Crusader Award recipients received a total of \$12,000 in cash and prizes to support their projects. We salute these gardeners for investing their time and energy to make our world a better place!

Please go to the below website for more information:

http://www.gardeners.com/on/demandware.store/Sites-Gardeners-Site/default/Link-Page;pgid=9B0vops100000000000000000003LaM1Suu;sid=MmPeAmn7_FbogC3F_TmqAWnxyml0ZT6LraA=?id=5549

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2007 Youth Garden Grants™ Program

(Sponsored by National Gardening Association and The Home Depot™)

Program Criteria

NGA awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered, outdoor garden programs. In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements:

- educational focus or curricular/program integration
- nutrition or plant-to-food connections
- environmental awareness/education
- entrepreneurship
- social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning.

Who should apply: Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups throughout the United States are eligible. Applicants must plan to garden in 2006 with at least 15 children between the ages of three and 18 years. Previous Youth Garden Grant winners who wish to reapply must wait one year and have significantly expanded their garden programs.

[DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION](#)

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Hooked on Hydroponics Awards

National Gardening Association joins the **Hydroponic Merchants Association** and leading companies from the hydroponic gardening industry to present the 2nd annual **Hooked on Hydroponics Awards**

Who should apply: All middle schools or high school in the United States are eligible. Applicants must plan to engage at least 15 students in the hydroponics project during the 2006/07 school year.

Applications must be postmarked and mailed no later than **September 30, 2006**. Applicants will receive notification of their status by **October 31, 2006**. Awards will be shipped by **November 30, 2006**.

What the award includes: Hydroponic garden systems and indoor light systems (high-intensity discharge or compact fluorescent). Hydroponic garden packages include various system types, including flood and drain (a.k.a., [ebb and flow](#)), [nutrient film technique](#), capillary (a.k.a., [wick](#)), and [aeroponic](#) systems.

For more information go to the below website:

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/2006-HOH-landing.asp>

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Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grants

Applications for grants in sustainable agriculture are now being accepted by the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program. More than \$2 million will be disbursed early next year in this latest round of competitive grants in the categories Research and Education, Professional Development, Farmer/Rancher, Professional + Producer and Graduate Student. The grants explore, develop and promote some aspect of agricultural sustainability, which embraces profitable farms and ranches, a healthy environment and strong families and communities. Western SARE, administered through Utah State University, is one of four regions of SARE under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Phil Rasmussen, regional coordinator, said that since the program was begun in 1988, Western SARE has granted more than \$35 million to about 900 recipients in the region. - Ron Daines, Western SARE Communications Specialist (rjdaines@msn.com)

CONTACT: Requests for applications and grant deadlines are available on the Western SARE website at <http://wsare.usu.edu>, by calling (435) 797-2257 or by emailing wsare@ext.usu.edu.

*(Visit the website to find out more about what types of projects are awarded grants, especially see the projects for the state of Texas. **Wayne Thompson** and **Keith Crenshaw**, you would be interested in these.... - THOR)*

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Fiscal Year 2006 Environmental Protection Agency Collaborative Science and Technology Network for Sustainability Grants

The Environmental Protection Agency intends to fund projects in two eligible areas under the Collaborative Science and Technology Network for Sustainability (CST) Program Grant. Two million dollars is available to fund projects that emphasize learning rather than the application of established environmental solutions in the following two areas:

- Communities and the Built Environment
- Industrial Ecology and Organizational Behavior

GIS technology and geospatial information can be used as the central support and product of a CST application or can be one of a number of analytical tools used in a project.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include public and private not-for-profit organizations and state, local, and tribal governments.

Deadline to Apply: May 17, 2006

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Grant Wrangler Funding Directory

Grant Wrangler is a free grants listing service that makes it easy for teachers to find funding. To see the full list of funding opportunities, and to subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter, visit the [Grant Wrangler Web site](#)

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!!!

BirdFest (3-day event)

Chappell Hill

Friday-Sunday, April 28-30

Speakers are scheduled to include: Fred Collins, David Luneau, Mark Klym, Glenn Olsen, Channel 11's Lisa Foronda, Rebecca McKeever and others. Guided field trips to great locations will feature painted buntings, orioles, tanagers, several warbler species and many other spring migrants. There will be several vendor booths including nature photography, artwork, optics, a live birds of prey exhibit, book signings and more. There will also be evening socials on both Friday and Saturday so birders can discuss their day's sightings. Reservations are required for some lectures and field trips. Registration for the speakers and field trips is limited to **sign up early** for this special event. Please call or check website for details.

CONTACT: www.chappellhillbirdfest.com (979) 337-9910 (979) 836-5967 (936) 851-0114

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Workshop on Upper Texas Coast Grasses

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

22306 Aldine Westfield Road

Saturday, April 29, 10AM-2PM

Flo Hannah of the Houston Audubon Society leads an in-depth native grass workshop covering identification of the most common grasses in this region and the botanical terms used in grass identification. Workshop includes optional instruction with taxonomic keys and field study at Mercer. Bring a sack lunch. Please call ahead for reservations.

CONTACT: Teri MacArthur at heartwoodnaturalists@earthlink.net or call (281) 443-8731

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Spring Migration Birding Tour

Fennessey Ranch

Saturday, April 29, 2006 - 7:30-3 p.m

This annual birding tour, on 4,000 acres of habitat, racks up 400 species or more including warblers, buntings, marsh birds, ibis, least and American bittern, anhinga, rails and swallow tailed kite. Guided by experienced birder and ranch guide; fees include lunch, \$47.95 Texas State Park Pass members, \$49.75 non-members; reservations required; for more information

CONTACT: view <http://www.fennesseyranch.com> or call (361) 529-6600

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Fiesta at the Forest

Enchanted Forest
10611 FM 2759
Richmond, Tx

Saturday, April 29, 11AM-3PM

Spring is here and we are ready to celebrate! Come join in the festivities. 11AM – Margaret Pickell, Wildlife Rehabilitator and Master Naturalist, will be speaking about the importance of Habitat Gardening and wildlife rehabbing. 1:30PM – The Texas Snake Man will be showing different native Texas snakes and how to tell the difference between a “good guy” and a “bad guy”.

CONTACT: 281-937-9449

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Piney Woods Wildlife Society April Field Trip - Galveston Island

Randall's Supermarket on 61st Street (meet at)

Saturday, April 29, 8AM

John Laneri will lead us on another full day of birding on Galveston Island. We will spend the morning searching for spring migrants - stopping first at Lafitte's Cove and then working Stewart, Settegast and Sportsman roads. For lunch, we will return to town and picnic at Kempner Park, located on the corner of Avenue O and 27th Street. It's an historical site that draws warblers like magic. In the afternoon, we will head to the East Jetties for shore birds, and then visit Corps Woods for more warblers and orioles. Expect ample breaks and easy trails. **Directions:** Take I-45 south to Galveston. Exit at 61st Street and drive toward the beach. Randall's is located one block from the seawall on the right. Meet in the parking lot.

CONTACT: Al Barr at (281) 443-6629 or albarra4@aol.com or

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pineywoodswildlifesociety/>

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Buffalo Bayou Partnership Volunteer Work Day - Green Tree Nature Trail

Waugh and Memorial

Parking is located at Spotts Parking Lot at Willa and Waugh

Saturday, April 29, 8:30AM-12PM

We will be trail building, pruning vegetation, and mulching to protect the vegetation for the summer.

CONTACT: Bethany Foshee at (713) 752-0314, ext. 7 or bfoshee@buffalobayou.org

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Pasadena - 1st Annual Environmental Fair

Sam Rayburn High School

2121 Cherrybrook Lane

Pasadena, TX

Saturday, April 29, 9AM-2PM

At Pasadena's first-ever Environmental Fair, there will be displays and exhibits featuring local businesses and organizations that offer environmentally friendly products and services. Along with the latest information on how you can make a significant difference right here in our community.

Enjoy the unique Eco-Garden. Fee: Free; bring money to buy food, drinks, etc.

CONTACT: (713) 475-4876

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Balcones Songbird Festival

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge
FM 1431, just west of Lago Vista

Saturday-Monday, April 29-May 1

A way to enjoy springtime in the Texas Hill Country is to attend the Balcones Songbird Festival, a collection of interpretive events to experience birds, butterflies, and wildflowers near Austin. The main event is located at the headquarters of the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. Please see website for more details.

CONTACT: <http://balconessongbirdfestival.org>

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Exploring Houston's Backyard 2006

Jones State Forest
FM 1488, Conroe/The Woodlands

May 1-5, 8:30AM till 2PM

Breakfast snacks/Lunch/water are provided daily

Each day over 250, 5th graders from intercity schools in Houston will be presented a program about the forest, wildlife, water, insects/disease, products...

6 + volunteers are needed each day to help be an interpretive tour guide. Meaning, help guide the teacher and class between stations and just visit with them if they have any questions about what they are seeing. There are 6 station per day around 30 minutes long with a 5-10 walk between each stations.

If someone would like to volunteer, please

CONTACT: Robin Baxter or John R. Warner (Urban District Forester) at 936/273-2261 as soon as possible.

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8th Annual 2006 Southwest Land Trust Conference

La Quinta Inn, Suites & Conference Center
San Antonio, TX

Thursday – Saturday, May 4-6, 2006

The Land Trust Alliance, Texas Land Trust Council & the Program Committee invite you to the 8th Annual Southwest Conference. This gathering is all about educating and connecting in a vibrant high- energy environment full of the best and brightest in the conservation world. Whether you are new to the land trust community or a seasoned professional, this conference is for you! Keynote speaker, James Levitt, director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at Harvard University.

"Come together and focus on conservation" to seek sustainability, excellence and accreditation!

Co-hosted by the Texas Land Trust Council and the Land Trust Alliance.

CONTACT: Pam Nicholls at pnicholls@lta.org or 970-245-5811.

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Earth Force/Galveston Bay Watershed Academic Partnership Youth Summit

Armand Bayou Nature Center

May 5, Friday, 9AM-4PM

Pasadena

National Wetlands Month - At the summit, GBWAP partner campuses and guest classes will set-up interactive learning/exhibit booths that highlight their studies and action projects conducted over the past school year. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will join us for the day with several interactive exhibits of their own. Music, food, and fun will also be a part of the day as students celebrate their achievements with their peers and other community members.

CONTACT: Brent Stafford bstafford@galvbay.org

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HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE TEXAS AMPHIBIAN WATCH?

- ✓ Attend a Texas Amphibian Watch volunteer training where you'll learn songs of local frogs and toads, find out about challenges facing amphibians worldwide, practice collecting amphibian population data, and select a wetland site for monitoring.
- ✓ Collect amphibian population data throughout the year, send your data to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, and receive an annual report detailing amphibian monitoring efforts across the state.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING REGISTRATION SHEET

Spring 2006 Texas Amphibian Watch Training Sessions

Sheldon Lake State Park & Environmental Learning Center

- ✓ **Where:** 15315 Beaumont Highway (Business 90) @ Park Road 138, Houston, TX 77049 / 281-456-2800
- ✓ **When:** Saturday, May 6, 2006 from 3pm-8pm (*Participants responsible for own dinner, 5pm-6pm*)
- ✓ **Cost:** \$5.00

.....

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Are you in the Texas Master Naturalist Program? Yes No

Please mail this registration sheet to Jaime González at 7675 Phoenix Dr., #409, Houston, TX 77030. If you have questions about training sessions or the Texas Amphibian Watch Program please e-mail Jaime González at jaimegonzalez72@gmail.com. Thank you for your interest in this valuable program!

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Marsh Mania 2006

(Two locations)

Armand Bayou Nature Center

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, May 6, 8AM-12PM (free lunch)

Join the Galveston Bay Foundation and become a Marsh Maniac.....volunteer marsh restoration project.

“Restoring America’s Estuaries-Saving Our Coastal Heritage”

CONTACT: Register for either location at 291-332-3381 Ext. 205 or email

marshmania@galvbay.org

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On the Trail of Trash- 1st Annual Park Trail Cleanup

Six locations around Houston

Saturday, May 6, 9 to noon

The City of Houston, Keep Houston Beautiful, and The Park People are sponsoring this event at six different locations around Houston. There will be volunteers at each site from different companies and other groups, however, at site # 3 MacGregor Way near Hermann Park we need knowledgeable volunteers that can help with invasive plant removal. It will mean bringing tools (pruning shears, small handsaws, or loppers - perhaps sharp shooters and gloves). The city will have trucks there to carry off trash

(NOTE - We are particularly trying to **recruit Master Naturalists** for the McGregor Way event and for Stude/White Oak; both locations have major invasives issues. While Dee Howell from HPARD will work to mark plants to be removed, all of us would appreciate having knowledgeable volunteers on hand at both of those locations. Please contact me if you have any questions. Christina U. Wilkerson, Director of Grants, Communications & Special Events - 713-942-PARK (7275))

Interested volunteers should fill out the below flyer and return to The Park People.

HALLIBURTON



Saturday, May 6, 2006

Join Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Keep Houston Beautiful and The Park People on May 6th to clean and enhance six different sites around the Greater Houston Area. 9am—Noon

Site	Location	Tasks	Availability
1. Cullen Park	Katy/I-10 West	Phase 2 & Phase 4 Trail Maintenance	OPEN
2. Oyster Creek	Sugar Land/59 South	Trail Maintenance/Clean up on lake	OPEN
3. MacGregor Way	Hermann Park	Removal of invasive plant species	OPEN
4. Waugh Drive	Waugh/Allen Pkwy	Build bat viewing deck	FULL
5. Stude/White	Oak Woodland Heights	Trail Maintenance & Removal of invasive plant species	OPEN
6. Hermann Brown	Outside NE 610	Trail Maintenance & Removal of invasive plants	OPEN

Check off your park for May 6th!

Cullen Park phase two 19008 Saum 77084

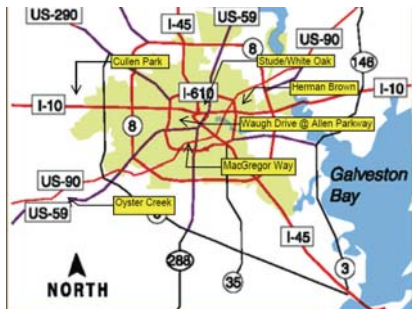
Cullen Park phase four 18203 Groeschke 77084

Oyster Creek 12880 South Hwy 6 77478

MacGregor Way 1500 S. MacGregor Way 77021

Stude/White Oak, 1603 White Oak Drive 77007

Hermann Brown 300 Oates Road 77013



Name: _____ Organization Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone # _____ Fax# _____

CONTACT: To participate, please call Keep Houston Beautiful 713-839-8855 Fax 713-839-8880 or The Park People 713-942-7275 Fax 713-942-8429.

Email info@houstonbeautiful.org or jcortez@parkpeople.org



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Navasota River Brazos County Field Trip

(location see information below)

Saturday, May 6, 7:30AM to about 12:30PM

The field trip (limited to 20 participants) is on a tract of land along the side of that is mostly virgin bottomland hardwood forest. I have been conducting a periodical flora and fauna survey for one of the owners of the land since late summer of last year. He has given me permission to bring a group of birders and people who enjoy nature onto the property.

The land is unspoiled. Cattle have not grazed the property for several years and the native grasses and sedges are doing well. There are three natural ponds on the property. One of the ponds has a dense stand of Water Elm (Planer Tree) on it. There is Navasota River frontage. There are huge Willow Oak, Water Oak, Overcup Oak (Swamp Post Oak), and Water Hickory on the property. The land probably appears much like the Brazos River bottomland looked before it was logged by early settlers for agricultural use.

Some of the bird species I have seen include Anhinga, Roseate Spoonbill, Hairy woodpecker (multiple times), Pileated Woodpecker, Cave Swallow, Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Sedge Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and a flock of Rusty Blackbirds. Common Yellowthroats over-wintered in the stands of water elm.

The cost is \$20.00 per person. I will meet participants along Peach Creek Road at the entrance to the site. Peach Creek Road is located on the east side of Highway 6 south of the Texas World Speedway. The speedway is located between College Station and Navasota. We will start early due to the fact that weather in early May is unpredictable. I will give those who sign up for the field trip the exact meeting location along Peach Creek Road once I receive your payment. Payment should be sent to my mailing address at: P. O. Box 27, Chappell Hill, Texas 77426.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes, preferably hiking boots. Brings lots of drinking water, lunch, and insect repellent. The restrooms in the hunting compound will be open and the air conditioned kitchen will be available for lunch. I will have maps of the trails on the property available in the event some participants need to leave before the end of the field trip. If participants stay on the trails they will not get lost. For more information go to www.darrellvollertnaturetours.com

CONTACT: Darrell Vollert at 979-251-4986

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The Native Plant Society of Texas, Houston Chapter – Field Trip

NPSOT-H field will be on Sunday and led by Dr. Larry Brown. Field trips originate at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway. Please wear appropriate footwear for walking through wet or dry fields, bring drinking water, bug spray, and a packed lunch. Field trips normally end after the picnic lunch. If the weather is drizzling rain, we proceed, but if it is a gully-washer, we still gather at the Arboretum and then cancel. We meet at the Arboretum between 8 and 8:30 am, and **depart promptly at 8:30.**

Sunday, May 7, the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge southwest of Sealy and the roadsides on the way will be the focus of the trip

CONTACT: visit our website at www.npsot.org/houston or email: npsotHouston@yahoo.com.

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International Compost Awareness Week

May 7, 2006 to May 13, 2006

The theme for 2006 is **The Possibilities are Endless ... Compost!**

Here is another opportunity for our Master Naturalists to **get** together and **put** together a mini-project for this week. If you need any help networking with other members, please contact THOR. (Hey, **Ray Wallace** (our certified TMN expert on composting), this would be right up your alley. – *THOR*)

CONTACT: [Compost Awareness Week](#) website for more information

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Urban Forestry Summit 2006

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center

4501 Woodway Dr.

Houston, TX 77024

Thursday, May 11, 9AM-4PM (RSVP by May 5th)

The **Urban Forestry Summit 2006** will cover topics on trees as a vital part of a community's infrastructure, how trees can be protected during development projects, and how to manage a community's forest. You will also hear from a panel that will describe their tree planting initiatives from the state to community level in Texas. A one-day workshop for Community Leaders, municipal Officials, Public Works, Parks, and Planning Staff, Home Owner and Neighborhood Association Members, Residential and Commercial Developers, and Concerned Citizens.

Please **RSVP** by **May 5th** to Sandra McKnight at 713.993.2461 or smcknight@h-gac.com.

CONTACT: For more information <http://www.houstonregionalforest.org/Events/Summit2006> or call Chuck Wemple at 713.993.4514 or cwemple@h-gac.com

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13th Annual City of Houston Water Festival

Downtown Houston Aquarium

410 Bagby

Houston, Tx

Thursday, May 11, 10AM-2PM

CONTACT: Brenda Templeton at 713-837-0509 or email brenda.templeton@cityofhouston.net

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Piney Woods Wildlife Society – Watson Pinelands Preserve Field Trip

Big Thicket National Park

Saturday, May 13

Neotropicals, blooming orchids, trails poor, will be led by David Henderson.

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Wildlife Photo Shoot – DATE CHANGE (April 1 – cancelled)

Fennessey Ranch

May 13 + 14th 2006

Fennessey Ranch and Sean Fitzgerald team up for a full day of wildlife photography in the field. Fitzgerald has won the Coastal Bend Wildlife Photo Contest on the Fennessey Ranch the last two years. Blinds placed in rookeries, on game trails and watering holes let you photograph wildlife while Fitzgerald gives you tips on composition, techniques and equipment. Daylight.-dark; fees \$155 Texas State Parks Pass members, \$165 non-members; reservations required; for more information visit <http://www.fennesseyranch.com>

CONTACT: (361) 529-6600

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Overabundant White-tailed Deer in Texas

Impacts on People, Communities, and the Land

Texas State University

San Marcos, Texas

Thursday, May 18, 7:45AM-5PM

White-tailed deer are a valuable natural resource providing enjoyment for thousands across Texas and are very adaptable to life near people. However, when deer numbers escalate and they become overabundant, deer can threaten wildlife and plant diversity as well as cause economic, health and safety concerns. Some Texas communities are currently confronting these issues and others soon will be. This seminar will allow attendees to hear about the experiences of communities as well as hear from nationally recognized experts currently working with overabundant deer issues.

- * How did we get this many deer in Texas and what does the future hold?
- * Impact of overabundant deer populations
- * Current management tools
- * What has and has not worked
- * Overabundant deer as a planning issue
- * Building consensus among stakeholders

Early registration fee - \$35 * Good until April 1, 2006! After April 1st, registration is \$50.

Registration is limited. Fee includes all refreshment breaks and lunch on day one. Pre-registration by May 1st required for a guaranteed lunch! Limited sponsorships available.

CONTACT: (to register) Helen Holdsworth at the Texas Wildlife Association 1-800-TEX-WILD or 210-826-2904, x. 120

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Managing Your Land For Wildlife Workshop,

Part I: Practical First Steps

Texas Cooperative Extension Office Auditorium

3033 Bear Creek Drive

Houston, TX 77084

Saturday, May 20, 9AM – 4PM

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Katy Prairie Conservancy, and Texas Cooperative Extension
3 Applicator's License CEU credits available

Habitat Assessment Field Practice

Katy Prairie Conservancy Property

Saturday, May 20, 2:45 – 4:00 pm

After the Managing Your Land for Wildlife Workshop classroom section adjourns, please join staff from Katy Prairie Conservancy, Texas Cooperative Extension, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. to practice what you learned in the field. We'll travel to Katy Prairie Conservancy property in the Katy Prairie. We'll split up into smaller groups and practice our habitat evaluation skills. Maps to the KPC property will be provided to attendees on the day of the workshop.

CONTACT: Keith Crenshaw at 281-456-7029 x22 or email at Keith.Crenshaw@tpwd.state.tx.us

MANAGING YOUR LAND FOR WILDLIFE Workshop, PART ONE & Field Trip REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____ Number of People Attending _____

Fax Number for Registration Confirmation (optional) _____

OR Email for Confirmation (optional) _____

Email address used for registration confirmation only. _____

County(ies) and Acreage of Your Property _____

Number of Vegetarian Lunches Needed _____

Cost: \$20.00 per person (fee includes workshop materials and lunch)

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, **May 17, 2006**. No refunds after May 17, 2006.

Please make checks payable to: Katy Prairie Conservancy

Mail registration form and check to:

Managing Your Land for Wildlife Workshop, 14320 Garrett, Houston, TX 77044

Questions? Please call Katy Prairie Conservancy at 713-523-6123 OR TPWD at 281-456-7029.

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Carnivorous Plants Workshop

Saturday, May 20 10am -3pm

Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center

Carnivorous Plants: Local species and their kin - Identification and Cultivation

Mike Howlett, local carnivorous plant specialist, has been named as the Regional Head Grower for the North American Sarracenia Conservancy, a newly formed nonprofit dedicated to the conservation, cultivation and reintroduction of North American Pitcher Plants (Sarracenia). He will be conducting a Carnivorous Plants program that is open to everyone (including the public) Saturday morning at 10 a.m. The goal, with the follow up workshop from 1 to 3PM, is to develop a core of

volunteers who will help at the Jones Park's greenhouse to grow out these plants. The workshop will demonstrate cultivation methods for Sarracenia in particular, but methods for other CPs will be reviewed as well. Currently, about 2,000 seeds of the native Texas Pitcher Plant have been head-started and these will be the majority of what the workshop attendees will be working with.

It is asked that attendees devote at least a few hours monthly to helping raise the plants in Jones Park's greenhouse. As these volunteers demonstrate proficiency in growing these plants, they may be allowed to take some home for growout. These seedlings will be distributed for reintroduction and other conservation measures

CONTACT: Reservations requested by email to Teri MacArthur at texasnaturelover@earthlink.net
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MAY - PROJECT OF THE MONTH (POM)

MAY 6TH POM

(PROJECT OF THE MONTH)

8:30 to 12:00 pm

Jesse Jones Park & Nature Center
Texas Master Naturalist Adopted Trail

It's been far too long since Gulf Coast Master Naturalists have worked on the chapter's adopted trail at Jesse Jones Park. The Canoe Launch Trail is one of the most prominent in the park, so it's important that we maintain it and set a good example for others. Since most of the privet and tallow was removed during the initial workdays last year, there's not a lot of heavy-duty work left, but it does need to be monitored and maintained. Rick Thompson (GCMN Fall 2005 Class) will lead a workday to inspect the trail for new growth of invasive plants, appropriately address them as necessary, and remove some deadfall from last year's storms. If time permits, we may also work on some remaining deadfall, from Rita, in additional park areas.

The workday will begin with a short advanced training by someone from park management on plant identification of the three-targeted species: Chinese Tallow, Chinese Ligustrum and Japanese Climbing Fern. Work will involve pulling, cutting and removing herbaceous and woody plants. Staff will assist in all aspects of the workday, and will use chain saws and herbicides as necessary. A continental breakfast of muffins, doughnuts, fruit, juice, etc. will be provided at 8:30 a.m., and snacks throughout the day. Insect repellent, water and cups will be provided, as well as machetes, loppers and other tools as needed. **Please bring your own sack lunch, hat, gloves, snacks, etc.**

Please RSVP me Anice Petersen at anice@wt.net
Or

Call Rick Thompson at 281-360-7441

Directions: From Houston, head north on US 59 (Eastex Freeway) to FM 1960/FM 1960 Business Exit. Exit 59 and go to second traffic light (1960). Turn west (left) onto 1960 and go 1.5 miles to Kenswick Drive. Turn north (right) at Kenswick and follow Kenswick into the park.

Jesse Jones Park and Nature Center, Humble
Phone is 281-446-8588

Rick Thompson's cell phone (832) 435-7755

The Gulf Coast Chapter of the



Texas Master Naturalist

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Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference

Hosted by the SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center

Nacogdoches, TX

Wednesday-Sunday, May 24-28, 2006

Visit: <http://pnpc.sfasu.edu/> for detailed agenda and registration information

CONTACT:

Elyce Rodewald : [erodewald at sfasu.edu](mailto:erodewald@sfasu.edu)

Dr. David Creech: [dcreech at sfasu.edu](mailto:dcreech@sfasu.edu)

Peter Loos: [info at ecovirons.com](mailto:info@ecovirons.com)

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PROJECT LEARNING TREE - FIRE IN THE ECOLOGY WORKSHOP

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED!

Jones State Forest - Classroom

1328 FM 1488

Conroe, Texas

Saturday, July 8, 9am - 4pm

Advanced Master Naturalist Training - Texas Forest Service (Tree Tenders) and for Pr-K through grade 8 teachers, youth leaders and home schoolers.

Learn about the role of fire in ecosystems-is it good or bad?

Take home *Project Learning Tree* activity guides, "Burning Issues" CDs,

posters, grant opportunities, and much more!

All activities are correlated to TEKS and national education standards, and demonstrate "best practices" in educational pedagogy and methods.

Cost: FREE (But you must pre-register to attend)

Sponsored by National Project Learning Tree and Bureau of Land Management

Credit: 6 hours of SBEC credit; 6 hours of TEEAC credit

Lunch, snacks & drinks provided. Wear comfortable clothing suitable for outdoors.

-----complete, mail or fax -----

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

School _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____ Grade Level _____

Phone _____
(Work) _____ (Home) _____

Fax: 936.273.2282

Mail: Texas Forest Service, 1326 FM 1488, Conroe, TX 77384

Attn: John Warner

Information/Directions: 936.273.2261 or jwarner@tfs.tamu.edu



Texas PLT sponsored by Texas Forestry Association & Texas Forest Service

CONTACT: John Warner at 936/273-2261

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FYI

Waste Management Earth Day

Houston Zoo

Friday, April 21, 10AM-PM

Saturday, April 22, 10AM-3PM

The Houston Zoo and Waste Management help Houston children "identify" ways to protect the planet and themselves on Earth Day. The Waste Management Earth Day Festival features a wide variety of entertainment and educational activities focusing on conservation and the importance of local efforts to promote habitat preservation. In addition, Waste Management is providing 5,000 kid's fingerprint and ID kits to help ensure the safety of local children.

Explore the world of conservation and recycling at the Waste Management Earth Day Festival. Learn how to protect our planet, protect our kids and protect our future.

Recycle your newspapers and aluminum cans, meet Cyler the Recycling Robot, make a bird feeder feeder and more. Lots of entertainment and booths to teach all of us how to save Mother Earth. This year's Waste Management Earth Day will include conservation booths, craft areas, games, and special keeper chats and docent presentations.

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Houston Audubon Society Hummingbird & Butterfly Plant Sale

Boy Scout Woods in High Island

Saturday, April 22, All Day

Bring money to buy plants

Contact: (713) 932-1639

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Mothers For Clean Air Earth Day Fun Run – Bellaire Earth Day Festival

Intersection of Newcastle and Evergreen

Saturday, April 22 – 7:30AM

Mothers for Clean Air will host a 5K run in conjunction with the Bellaire Earth Day Festival. The 5K run is open to all ages, and awards will be given to the top three male and female runners in each age category. The out-and-back course begins at the intersection of Newcastle and Evergreen. It is a flat, fast, tree-lined neighborhood course, certified by the USTA. Runners will be chip timed. There will also be a 1K kids' run and a 3K walk. The kids' race begins at 7:30 am, followed by the 5K at 8 am and the walk at 8:10 am. The Bellaire Earth Day Festival will start at 10 am at the Nature Discovery Center on Newcastle. The event, which is co-hosted by the Center and the Bellaire Recycling Committee, features activities designed to raise community awareness of environmental issues.

CONTACT: <<http://www.mothersforcleanair.org>> or call (713) 526-0110

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Green Thumb Gardening Series

Tracy Gee Community Center

3599 Westcenter Drive

Houston, TX 77042

All sessions held on fourth Tuesday, 6:30-9PM

April 25 – Good Plants for Houston, May 23 – Lawn Care, June 27 – Butterfly Gardening, July 25 – Pests and Diseases, August 22 – Landscape Design, September 26 – Landscape Maintenance, October 24 – Soils and Composting, November 28 – Trees, December – No Class, January 23 – Fruits and Nuts

These programs are free and are being sponsored by the Harris County Master Gardeners. Registration is not required. Come to one class, or attend them all. Some classes may be considered

as Advance Training for Texas Master Naturalists depending on content. To all Master Naturalists, please submit a summary of the class with your time sheet for approval.

CONTACT: 281-855-5600 website: <http://harris-tx.tamu.edu/hort>

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The Texas Section SRM Youth Activities Committee is now accepting applicants for the 2006 **Youth Range Workshop**. The workshop is scheduled for Sunday, June 18 through Friday, June 23, 2006. We will be accepting applicants until 40 applicants have been received. The information about the workshop and application can be found at the following web page <http://www.tssrm.org/youthrange.htm> or by contacting Dr. Barron Rector, Coordinator of the workshop at (979) 845-2755 or email at b-rector@tamu.edu. Please pass this information on to as many people as possible. Someone just might know of a youth that would like to attend.

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Bayou City Farmers' Market - Every Saturday 8-12

3000 Richmond between Kirby & Buffalo Speedway

(Back parking lot of NE corner of Eastside Street)

Saturday, 8AM-Noon

Buy Local! Buy Fresh! A Real Farmers' Market in Your Backyard! Bayou City Farmers' Market is a Project of Urban Harvest. For more information: www.urbanharvest.org or call 713-880-5540

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Organic Gardening Lecture

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center

4501 Woodway Drive

Thursday, April 27, All Day

Howard Garrett, "The Dirt Doctor", will share his expertise in organic gardening at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center. Please call or check the website for details.

CONTACT: (713) 681-8433 or www.houstonarboretum.org

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Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection event

Humble Civic Center

8233 Will Clayton Parkway

Houston, Tx

Saturday, April 29, 8AM to 2PM

CONTACT: Gail Moncla, Harris County HHW Manager at (713) 290-3000 or gmoncla@swq.hctx.net or visit www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org

http://www.newsrouter.com/newsrouter_uploads/57/

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An Evening with Masaru Emoto

Rice University

6100 Main St

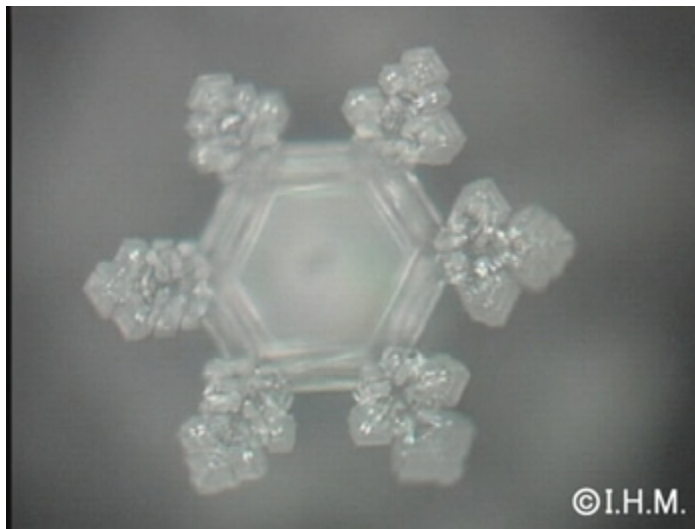
Grand Hall of the Rice Center/Ley Center (Bldg 37)

Houston, TX

Thursday, May 4, Lecture 7PM-9:30PM

Dr. Masaru Emoto researches water through photographs and illustrations. His research captures frozen water crystals on film and presents the possibility for any of us to take a glimpse into the mysterious property of water.

Water crystal of the Month:



In commemoration of a lecture in a Mexican water forum performed on March 17, it is the crystal photograph which told a Mexican national anthem.

Open to the public. Seats are available for \$30.00 prior to May 1st or \$35.00 at the door. Reception and Speaker Event \$50.00 (Reception 5PM-6:30PM, Lecture 7PM-9:30PM)

CONTACT: Click for Registration form http://www.blackwoodland.org/emoto_registration.pdf

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Speak Now, Or Acres Of Forest Land Go On Sale

Beaumont Enterprise 04/10/06

Texans with strong feelings about whether national forest land belongs on the auction block have less than a month to make their feelings known.

<<http://beaumontenterprise.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=16455838&BRD=2287&PAG=461&deptid=512588&rfti=6>>

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(Note – These are all good projects and the native plant esplanades are especially worthy of support. If you do wish to write a letter of support, please do not include any reference to Texas Master Naturalist. – The Board. Please contact the Board for any explanation or clarification – Thank you)

Dear Friends of Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD),

Thank you for your feedback and interest in supporting HPARD's TXDOT STEP Project Nominations as described in last week's emails. We apologize if this message comes after you have sent your letter(s) of support and for any duplicate receipts of this e-mail.

To clarify, we are requesting a separate letter for each project that you are supporting. Please address your letter(s) of support to:

Joe Turner, Director
Houston Parks and Recreation Department
2999 S. Wayside Dr.
Houston, TX 77023

Here is a summary of project costs and funds requested (80%):

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	FUNDS REQUESTED
<p style="text-align: center;">Mason Park Bridge</p> <p>This is a bicycle/pedestrian bridge crossing Brays Bayou to facilitate safe access to park amenities now separated by the bayou and provide a safe pedestrian crossing for children commuting to school and other important destinations in the East End. This is the only pedestrian bridge within five miles. Matching funds will be provided by HPARD.</p>	\$2.5 Million	\$2 Million
<p style="text-align: center;">Native Naturalized Esplanades</p> <p>This project will beautify roadways and reduce maintenance by landscaping street medians with native trees, plants, and grasses. Six stretches of esplanades on arterial streets in various areas of Houston have been selected for this project. The conceptual design for wide esplanades includes vegetated swales to slow storm water (see attachment). Matching funds will be provided by HPARD.</p>	\$3.2 Million	\$2.6 Million
<p style="text-align: center;">Memorial Park Bridge</p> <p>The pedestrian bridge will span 300 feet across Memorial Drive connecting the two sides the park, enhancing the safety of park visitors by providing a crossing over one of the busiest roads in Houston. This project is a partnership with the Memorial Park Conservancy who has committed to providing the matching funds.</p>	\$2.1 Million	\$1.6 Million
<p>Hermann Park Esplanade Enhancement</p>	\$1.9 Million	\$1.5 Million

<p>This 4.5-acre esplanade is located on the western boundary of Hermann Park. The scope includes sidewalk and trail improvements to improve pedestrian and bicyclist mobility in the Texas Medical Center area. This project is a partnership with the Hermann Park Conservancy who has committed to providing the matching funds.</p>		
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Again, we are happy to meet with you in person to review these projects if you wish.

CONTACT: Luci Correa For Karen Cullar, Assistant Director

Grants, Legislation, and Development

Houston Parks and Recreation Department 2999 S. Wayside Dr. Houston, TX 77023

Ph: 713-845-1264 Fx: 713-845-1328 e-mail: luci.correa@cityofhouston.net

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Interesting/Helpful Websites:

http://amr.convio.net/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=8493&security=1&news_iv_ctrl=1137 -

The San Jacinto River is among the most endangered rivers in the US, according to American Rivers. (*Thanks to Terri Ficker for the link from Harris County Flood Control – THOR*)

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http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/03/0328_060328_fly_glasses.html - Housefly Gets Glasses Made With Lasers (*Picture of a fly wearing glasses – THOR*)

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<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/11/science/11obox.html> - First flight for a Swift – NY Times (*Cool story about how swifts learn to fly – THOR*)

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<http://www.houstonearthday.org/events.html#wm> – Houston Earth Day Guide – 2006 - A listing of all up and coming Earth Day events (*Thanks to Lan Shen for sending this in – THOR*)

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Good Night,

THOR

Please send any questions, requests, comments, ideas or suggestions to the chapter office at gcmn@tamu.edu and write THOR (**THURSDAY Office Reports**) in the subject line.

