

Master Naturalists Hill Country Chapter New Class

A picture of a caterpillar eating a plant. Big deal, right? See it all the time, right? Do you ever wonder what kind of moth or butterfly that caterpillar will become? And do ever think about why it's eating that particular plant and not any other? If you've asked yourself either of the last two questions, perhaps you have an inner "naturalist" begging to explore and learn.



The Texas Master Naturalist program can offer you the platform from which your exploration is endless. The Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter is one of more than forty regional Master Naturalist organizations in Texas. Members receive comprehensive training in natural resource management specific to the Texas Hill Country, and share their knowledge to promote conservation and good stewardship in their communities. The program is sponsored through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

The Hill Country Chapter will be providing a 13 week training program from August 19 – November 13, 2013. Classes will be held at the Texas Lion's Camp in Kerrville, every Wednesday. Visit our Chapter website to view a complete listing of the offered classes. This year's training class will also offer field experiences at the Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve, Canyon Lake Gorge, Kerr Wildlife Management Area and several regional nature centers. Class instructors are leading biologists, botanists and scientists who are experts in the flora, fauna and ecosystems of the Texas Hill Country.

Still interested? And does it sound like something you may want to pursue? Applications are now being accepted. The deadline to apply is July 12th. Applications, tuition information, and a curriculum listing may all be found on the Chapter website www.txmn.org/hillcountry or by contacting the Chapter Membership Director, Valeska Danielak, hillcountry13@rocketmail.com.

Don't forget, training begins August 19th in a pleasant and fun learning atmosphere alongside others who share the same interests. It's a great way to get out, enjoy the outdoors, learn, discover and make new friends.

If you were still wondering: The caterpillar shown is the Eight-Spotted Forester. It is eating a Virginia Creeper leaf, which is this insect's host plant. Below is a picture of the moth it will become!

