

Volume 8

Issue 3

Fall/Winter

2011

Kingfisher

Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center Programs & Events



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Message from the Manager

DESPERATELY SEEKING FALL! For those of you who have spent a summer in Texas this year, you are more than likely anticipating the cooler Fall weather, along with some much needed rain. You are not alone. Trees, plants, and animals all over are seeking shade and moisture where they can. Fortunately for our site, our main garden is on a drip irrigation system, providing much needed water to our plants and animals. With this sustenance, our gardens continue to grow and the wildlife continues to flourish, bringing us into a (hoped for) prolific Fall and Winter Birding and Butterfly season. This year, not much has changed on our grounds, though you will find a small change to our Kingfisher Newsletter. Instead of providing a quarterly newsletter, we will be producing 3 newsletters a year that will cover: Fall/Winter (Sept to Jan); Winter/Spring (Feb to May); and Summer (June through August). We hope that this new format will help you when you are planning your visits to the Center, whether you're coming in from out of state, or just planning a family day out. Come enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, and all that South Texas Nature has in store!



~ Marisa Oliva ~

Nature Notes: Bringing Up Butterflies

Watching butterflies here in the valley can be quite spectacular but keeping them happy takes planning! Adult butterflies seek out specific plants, called Host Plants on which to lay their eggs. Using the Gulf Fritillary as an example let's explore this notion of Host and Nectar Plants in further detail: the female deposits her eggs on the Host Plant, in this case on the leaves of the Passion Vine. The eggs hatch and out come tiny caterpillars that are very hungry! Not having to hunt for food right away has huge benefits, as the caterpillars eat the leaves of their Host Plant they continue to grow until they are ready to form their chrysalis. Once the butterfly emerges from its chrysalis it is ready for a new kind of food- nectar!

A great nectar plant for the Gulf Fritillary is Turke's Cap. Just the simple act of planting a variety of Host and Nectar Plants around your garden can make all the difference for these beautiful butterflies and will provide hours of butterfly watching!

Plant a butterfly garden this fall, come into the EWBC for a list of recommended butterfly plants and advice.
Nature thanks you!



Creature Feature: Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*)

The Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) is a native reptile species and is the Texas state reptile. Presently they are a threatened species due to loss of habitat and pesticide use. What makes this reptile so remarkable is its horned body, only scary to its predators, with two prominent spines on the crown of his head. It is a very docile lizard that loves to eat harvester ants and bask in the sun in areas where it is mostly open and dry. They lay their eggs underground and hibernate during the winter. Some of its very cool defense mechanisms include hissing, puffing out its body, and blood shooting eyeballs (used only as a last defense)! The color of its body is also excellent for camouflage. The Texas Horned Lizard has been spotted a couple of times on our grounds in the last few months so make sure you visit our site for a glimpse of this camouflaged creature!



Texas Horned Lizard

EWBC Outreach & Field Trips



Field Trips

Investigating Insects



Grade Level: Pre K- 3

Beginning Birder

Grade Level: 4-12

Power of Pollination!

Grade Level: 2-5



Wetland Exploration

Grade Level: 4-6

Natural History Tour

Grade Level: 5-12



Come see what an **amazing** classroom nature is! Can't come to us? We can bring nature to you!

We are currently accepting reservations for the months of January- May. Space is limited so please register early! Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance. If you have any other field trip or tour ideas please feel free to call us.

For more information contact us at (956) 381-9922.



Outreach

Birds of the RGV

Grade Level: 1-6



Wildlife of the Valley

Grade Level: pre K-5

Amazing Adaptations

Grade Level: K-6



Classroom Gardens

Grade Level: 2-5

Erosion Everywhere

Grade Level: 3-5



WINTER WONDER WETLANDS!

School's out, bring the whole family out to the wetlands for a grand time in nature!!

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28

Participants are invited to make their very own feathered bird puppet, following the craft participants will join staff for a bird walk.



10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 29

Explore the wild wetland creatures found in our dragonfly pond! With the help of the staff you and your family will have a fabulous time catching wetland critters!

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 30

Bring out the little ones for a delightful time as they meet some of our EWBC puppets and their friends for this delightful puppet show!



2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Adult Birding Series

Useful techniques, tips, and identification skills are the focus of this birding series for adults. Led by local experts, the individual sessions will offer something new and interesting for bird-watchers of all skill levels. Whether you attend one session, or all of them, your knowledge of the avian world is sure to improve! **RR.**



Classes will take place on Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

December 10 th	Basic Bird ID
December 17 th	Winter Wetland Birds
January 14 th	Raptor ID
January 28 th	Shorebird ID

Fee: Varies. Please call for rates.

Rancho Lomas Tour



Travel with the EWBC staff to the Rio Grande City area and tour the brushland of Rancho Lomas. Ranch owner and ethnobotanist, Benito Trevino, will lead the group around the scenic ranch and discuss how native plants

have helped local people survive in our harsh environment. Also, discover the medicinal heritage of the Rio Grande Valley during this fascinating excursion. **RR.**

Dates: Saturday, December 3rd
Saturday, January 7th

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$20 members, \$25 non-members.

Other: Please bring sack lunch or \$ for lunch.

RR: Reservations Required

Please make reservations at least two days in advance, unless otherwise noted, by calling us at (956) 381-9922.

Nature Explorations

Join EWBC staff for a walk around our grounds, as we introduce you to the abundant and varied wildlife that make our gardens and wetlands their home. Binoculars, scopes and field guides are provided. Tours are available in English or Spanish. All walks are FREE with paid admission or membership. **RR.**

Bird Walks

DATE: Every Wednesday

TIME: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Butterfly Walks

DATE: Every Thursday

TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



This October, the EWBC has a trip visiting butterfly hot spots throughout the Valley! Whether you are new to watching butterflies or are a seasoned expert, don't miss this unique trip that will make stops at The Old Hidalgo Pumphouse, National Butterfly Center, and Mission West RV Park. Butterflies that may be seen during the trip include: Malachites, Zebra Heliconians, and Mexican Bluewings. Come with us and be amazed by the colorful diversity and abundance of butterflies in the LRGV! **RR.**

Date: Saturday, October 15th

Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$30.00 per person

Introduction to Butterfly I.D.

This course will introduce participants to our local butterflies. Watch a brief presentation and take a guided leisure walk through our center's 3.5 acre butterfly garden. Binoculars and field guides will be available. No experience necessary. **RR.**

Date: Saturday, November 12th

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Fee: \$3 members, \$5 non-members

Teen Nature Adventures: Photography on Wheels

Teens, grab your cameras and your bike and join us as we explore nature and snap some awesome shots along the way! The group will begin their ride on the grounds of the Birding Center, and make their way around scenic sites around the City and surrounding areas. Bikes, helmets, water and cameras are all that's needed for this fun mid-day adventure. Lunch and drinks are included.

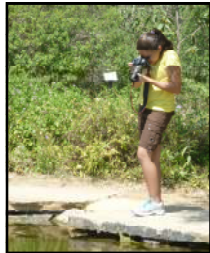
RR.

Date: Tuesday, December 20th

Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fee: \$12 for members

\$15 for non-members



Fall Blooms Tour



Each Fall, The Rio Grande Valley bursts with blooms in a riot of colors and textures. Join us for a brief presentation on the Center's native shrubs and wildflowers, followed by a leisure 1.5 hour walk to behold the bountiful blooms found around the Center grounds. **RR.**

Date: Saturday, November 5th

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Fee: \$3 members, \$5 non-members

Paint by Nature

Explore nature as a palette! There are a variety of native plants that act as natural pigment. Join us as we demonstrate how to create paints from natural materials, and learn what colors can be created as you paint your own masterpiece. **RR.**



Date: Saturday, January 14th

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Fee: \$3 members, \$5 non-members

Yoga in the Park

Practice Kundalini Yoga at the EWBC! This is one of the more spiritual types of yoga. It goes beyond the physical performance of poses with its emphasis on breathing and meditation. A perfect class for all ages and abilities sure to balance relaxation with the right amount of physical challenge.

Saturdays, September 10th - November 26th
8:30-10:00 a.m. \$80 for entire series, **RR.**

Friday Night with a Naturalist



Join us and some of the best naturalists and nature enthusiasts in the valley for wonderful family programs this fall! The third Friday of each month, EWBC invites different speakers to share their knowledge of birds, butterflies, plants and more!

Program and admission are **FREE!** Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and presentations are from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. **RR.**

Upcoming Programs:

Sept.16: Marisa Oliva– Nature 101

Oct. 21: David Dauphin– Butterflies of the RGV

Nov. 18: Dr. Fredensborg– Parasitism

Dec. 16: Dr. Perrigo– Photography on Baffin Bay

Jan. 20: Native Plants and Insects

Visit us online at: www.edinburgwbc.org

New Puppet Show Debut!



EWBC is excited to be debuting our brand new puppet show. Showcasing a South Texas cast of creatures, our puppets will introduce topics on habitat, adaptations and more! Following the show participants will enjoy an interactive activity. Great fun for the little ones and a learning experience for all!

Date: Saturday October 1st

Time: 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Fee: \$2/ child, \$3/ adult

Picture Perfect

Kids, looking for gift ideas that your family will love? Visit EWBC and learn how to make a magnetic picture frame using recycled cups! This sentimental and eye catching gift is sure to please its recipient. This fun craft combines the perfect amount of sentiment with craftiness. Grab a friend and head our way!



Date: Saturday December 17th

Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fee: FREE with Paid Admission

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Edinburg World Birding Center will be closed for the following national holidays:

Sept. 5:	Labor Day
Nov. 11:	Veteran's Day
Nov. 24- 25:	Thanksgiving
Dec. 23-26:	Christmas
Jan. 2:	New Years (Observed)



www.RGVEventsCalendar.com

Spooktacular Craft



On Saturday, October 29th join the Halloween scene at the EWBC. Make a crazy colored spider, a bat necklace or a friendly ghost! These crafts are fun for the whole family and since this falls on the last

Saturday of the month, it is entirely FREE! Grab the family and head our way to make some fun Halloween inspired crafts.

Date: Saturday October 29th

Time: ALL DAY

Fee: FREE

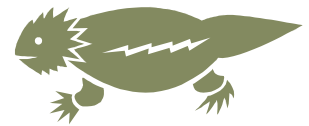
Texas Horned Lizard Craft

Come learn more about the threatened Texas Horned Lizard at the EWBC. Participant will learn some cool facts and make their own Texas Horned Lizard mosaic!

Date: Saturday November 5th

Time: 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Fee: FREE with Paid Admission



Spectacular Saturdays!

Fall is here, the weather is cooler, and wildlife is arriving by the day. It is a wonderful time to get outside and enjoy nature! On the last Saturday of the month, EWBC will open its doors for FREE to the general public. Throughout the day there will be activities, short games and scheduled nature hikes. Binoculars are available free of charge. *NOTE: Free entry does not include fee for concurring programs and activities.*

Dates: Saturdays: September 24th,
October 29th,
November 26th,
December 31st,
January 28th

Time: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.





Edinburg Community Garden

A new season is upon us at the Edinburg Community Garden. Register for your bed today, and learn how to grow tasty, healthy vegetables organically!

RENTAL RATES

4 x 8 Family Garden Beds \$35 per Season or \$50 yearly
 3 x 3 Children's Beds \$5 per Season or \$10 yearly

Includes: raised bed, vertical garden and free use of water, mulch, compost, tools and garden supplies, plus free t-shirt.

FALL 2011 GARDENING CLASSES

Join us for these informative classes and workshops, held on Tuesday evenings, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

- Sept 13th **Companion Planting**
- Sept 27th **Organic Square Foot Gardening**
- Oct 11th **Rose Culture in the Valley**
- Nov 1st **The Making of Wine**
- Nov 29th **Preserving the Harvest**

All classes are FREE for members and Community Gardeners, and \$3 for the general public. Call to reserve your space!

Scouts Programs

The EWBC will be hosting a day for Girl Scouts and Webe-los Scouts that will fulfill badge/patch requirements while they have a fantastic time learning about the natural world.

Call 381-9922 to schedule your troop today!

Forever Green Patch WebeLos Naturalist Badge

December 10th January 21st
 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Fee: \$5 per participating child / \$ 3 per adult

Evening Nature Photography

with Ruth Hoyt

November skies are filled with color, infusing every rock, flower, feather and tree with a special glow. Bring your camera and learn to capture remarkable images during this three day Fall workshop. SLR camera recommended.

November 2nd - 4th
 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

\$200 members / \$225 non-members

**Saturday
 November 19th
 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

Face Painting

Games

FREE!

Crafts

Migration Celebration 2011!

Fall / Winter 2011

Programs &
Events

SEPTEMBER

- 10: Yoga in Park Series Begins
- 13: ECG: Companion Planting
- 16: FNWN: Nature 101
- 24: Spectacular Saturday
- 27: ECG: Organic Gardening

OCTOBER

- 1: Puppet Show Debut
- 11: ECG: Rose Culture in the Valley
- 15: Butterfly Van Tour
- 21: FNWN: Butterflies of the RGv
- 29: Spooktacular Craft
- 29: Spectacular Saturday

NOVEMBER

- 1: ECG: Wine Making
- 2-4: Nature Photography workshop
- 5: Fall Blooms Tour
- 5: Texas Horned Lizard Craft
- 12: Butterfly ID
- 18: FNWN: Parastism
- 19: Migration Celebration
- 26: Spectacular Saturday
- 29: ECG: Preserving the Harvest

DECEMBER

- 3: Rancho Lomitas Trip
- 10: ABS: Birding 101
- 10: Girl Scouts Forever Green
- 16: FNWN: Photos of Baffin Bay
- 17: ABS: Winter Wetland Birds
- 17: Picture Perfect
- 20: TNA: Photography on Wheels
- 28-30: Winter at the Wetlands
- 31: Spectacular Saturday

JANUARY

- 7: Rancho Lomitas Trip
- 14: ABS: Raptor ID
- 14: Paint by Nature
- 20: FNWN: Native Plants & Insects
- 21: Naturalist Badge- Webelos
- 28: ABS: Shorebird ID
- 28: Spectacular Saturday

**CLOSED: Sept. 5, Nov. 11, 24 & 25
Dec 23-26 Jan. 2**

**TO REGISTER for these and other
events, please call (956) 381-9922
at least TWO days prior to the
event.**



Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center

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