

THIS WEEK ON THE LLANO ESTACADO

March 15-19, 2010



Ornate box turtles are the favorite wild animal of many West Texans. Everyone knows someone with a dozen in the back yard!

TEACHER AND STUDENT CHALLENGE;

Box turtles begin to emerge from hibernation in March. We would like students to report to teachers when their turtles emerge.

(And then the teachers can report to us at bwilliams@sibleynaturecenter.org.)

For reading, have the students read (or read to the students) the following; http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org/essays/wildontheprairie/herptiles/990926_turtles.html

This essay is about a population of turtles at a rural home in Midland County.

Mature male box turtles have red eyes and colorful spots on their legs. The dominant male in the yard is often the most brightly colored individual. Females have yellow eyes. The dominant female will also sometimes have brightly colored spots on the legs. Some box turtles can live up to 100 years of age. The individual in the photo above is a member of a subspecies of the ornate box turtle, for its yellow lines are skinnier. This subspecies is normally found west of the Llano Estacado.