

# Alamo Area Chapter News

## February 2017

txmn.org/alamo



### EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2

AAMN BOARD MEETING  
February 13 at 5:30 PM  
AgriLife Extension  
3355 Cherry Ridge  
Classroom 208

General Meeting 7 PM (AT)

George Ozuna and  
Olivia Tapia will speak  
about the newest work  
from Texas Invaders

OFFICERS  
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Immediate Past President  
Liz Robbins  
liz.robbins.44@gmail.com

### President's Message

Hi Friends,

It's a beautiful day right outside my window, and I can see butterflies and hear my neighborhood birds, so there's no better atmosphere to write a message to people who enjoy being outdoors as much (or more maybe) as I do. So....

We've had an exciting start to our 20th Anniversary Year!! As promised, we kicked it off with a wonderful lasagna dinner organized by our new Hospitality Director, Camille Gong, and assisted by Keeley Porter, Nancy Brown, Patti Hass, Marion Welch, and Pam De Roche! Thanks to everyone who contributed lasagna, side, dessert, or bread—we certainly have some good cooks in our organization, and no one went hungry! If you missed it this year, make plans to come next year.

Speaking of making plans—our 20th Anniversary Celebration will be held this summer at Joshua Springs Park and Preserve. Keeley Porter, chairman, would welcome your help. Her email is keeley.porter@gmail.com.

Thanks to Penelope Boyer, Program Director, for providing an interesting and thought-provoking program last month. Thanks also to Olivia Corona for presenting and to fellow AAMN Gary Poole for answering our many questions following the presentation. Next month, we will have another excellent presentation by our own George Ozuna and Olivia Tapia—highlighting Texas Invaders recent efforts on the south side of San Antonio.

It's that time of year again—time to pay your annual dues!! If you haven't done so already, please visit our website (txmn.org/alamo) and do so now. If you would rather, Nancy Thoss will be at the meeting to receive your dues or you can mail her a check. There is a link on the website for the form you will need to complete for these methods. Remember, we are trying to surpass our membership number from last year!

I saved the most important for last: **our February meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2017.** Same time, same location!! We hope to see you there!!

## COMMITTEES

### State Representative

Stan Drezek  
stanwendre@gmail.com

### Activities Information

Pam Ball, Director  
pball12@satx.rr.com

### Community Outreach

Jessica Rupke, Director  
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### Historian/Archivist

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### Hospitality

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### Membership

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### Media & Technology

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### Calendar

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### Education and Training

Jeanette Geiman, Director  
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### New Class Representatives

Joe Gonzales  
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Freya McGregor  
freya\_mcg@hotmail.com

## Pins and Awards

Congratulations to all our pin recipients!

### 2016 Recertification – Guadalupe Bass

Gail Cooper – 4  
Pamela DeRoche - 27  
Diane Fey – 23  
Jana Gibbons – 32  
Sara Key - 30  
Freya McGregor – 39  
Paul Mebane – 21  
Shannon Moore – 36  
Linda Myers – 32

Note: Pins are on backorder from the State office and will not be available until March.



Do you have a picture you'd like to share with other Master Naturalists? Send them to your friendly newsletter editor at [clealgonzalez@gmail.com](mailto:clealgonzalez@gmail.com)

## Newsletter Policies

We try to publish all material we receive, but space is limited in each month's newsletter. Long articles may be published on the website instead of the newsletter. Event notices must go through Pam Ball; and only the Activities Information Committee is authorized to declare whether an event is approved for Advanced Training or Volunteer Service Hours. Deadline for submissions is the 25th of each month.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

**Class 25**

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VACANT

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**Class 39**

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## Salsa Squad Invasive Tree and Plant Removal/ Balcones Invaders

The Salsa Squad is the daughter of the original Balcones Invaders. We are a group of volunteers who identify and eradicate invasive plants in parks, preserves and natural areas in the Greater San Antonio region. We search and destroy invasive species and trees that infest our natural area by the use of cutting, chopping and sawing tools as well as with the use of herbicides. We remove invasive flora from the Medina River Natural Area and its adjacent and attached trails in a planned and systematic fashion starting at the Western portion of Medina River Natural Area where the river enters the natural area and moving along the river riparian and adjacent lands East. We will meet once a Month on a Saturday, dates to be announced. Our times and dates are variable because we saw a need to provide a weekend when people who wanted to volunteer but could not make a Tuesday could come and help. The date and time is contingent on volunteer weekend availability.

Address: 15890 Highway 16 South, San Antonio, TX 78264; contact: ozunageorge@gmail.com or 210-669-9935.  
Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/BalconesInvaders/>

## San Antonio Parks and Recreation Natural Areas Stewardship Activities

The arts and sciences have collaborated nicely over the years in the naming of groups of organisms. Perhaps you have heard of a murder of crows, a parliament of owls, or an ostentation of peacocks. Recently, several of the COSA Natural Areas have hosted worms of American robins. What an appropriate way to refer to a species of bird so often regarded as a harbinger of spring! While robins typically do not nest in San Antonio, they do migrate through here, and when they do, it is hard not to be cheered by their various calls, their bright red breasts, and their habit of sometimes eating berries to the point of intoxication. A few other fun facts about American robins, courtesy of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology ([https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American\\_Robin/lifehistory](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Robin/lifehistory)):

- Robins eat different types of food depending on the time of day: more earthworms in the morning and more fruit later in the day. Because the robin forages largely on lawns, it is vulnerable to pesticide poisoning and can be an important indicator of chemical pollution.
- One study suggested that robins may try to round out their diet by selectively eating fruits that have bugs in them.
- An American Robin can produce three successful broods in one year. On average, though, only 40 percent of nests successfully produce young. Only 25 percent of those fledged young survive to November. From that point on, about half of the robins alive in any year will make it to the next. Despite the fact that a lucky robin can live to be 14 years old, the entire population turns over on average every six years.

For your opportunity to see worms of robins and experience other natural wonders, join us for our February land management and trail maintenance activities. Please bring leather work gloves and dress appropriately for the weather. Contact Jayne Neal ([jayne.neal@sanantonio.gov](mailto:jayne.neal@sanantonio.gov), 210-207-3785) with questions.

February 2, 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM (RM) Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa. Meet in the Administration/Classroom building.

February 9 and 16, 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM (RM) Friedrich Wilderness Park—West entrance off Heuermann. This west entrance is not open to the public, so if this is your first time going to this gate, please contact Jayne for directions.

February 23, 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM (RM) Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, 7222 Luskey. Meet in the parking lot.

### Reminder – Your 2017 Dues Payment is Due Now

Your 2017 dues are due now. You may pay the \$12 with the online program at <http://txmn.org/alamo/annual-dues-payment/> and use either a credit card or debit card. The paper form is also available on our website for those who prefer to pay by check.

Both Class 38 and 39 members are required to pay dues starting in 2017. The 2016 dues payment was included in your tuition fee.

Members who have been inactive this past year and want to become active again should email Nancy for access to our VMS hours program. Acceptance of an online background check by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department is required.

# February Training and Volunteer Events

## **Headwaters of Incarnate Word Film Series: *Love Thy Nature*, Monday Matinee — 1st Monday of each month (AT)**

Mon, February 6, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Christus Heritage Hall, The Village at Incarnate Word, 4707 Broadway, San Antonio, TX

“Narrated by Liam Neeson, *Love Thy Nature* points to how deeply we’ve lost touch with nature – and takes us on a mesmerizing cinematic journey through the beauty and intimacy of our relationship with the natural world. The winner of 26 awards, *Love Thy Nature* shares the dazzling spectacles of our planet while showing that a renewed connection with nature is key – not only to our wellbeing, but also to solving our environmental and climate crises.”

–LoveThyNature.com. Run time is 59 minutes.

Monday Matinee–Films on topics of environmental conservation and preservation. First Monday of each month, 3:30 PM. Contact person: Pamela Ball at [pamela.ball@amormeus.org](mailto:pamela.ball@amormeus.org) or 210-842-7967.

Admission is free.

## **PHP Weekend Warriors (RM-NPA)**

Sat, February 4, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Phil Hardberger Park West, 8400 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX

Savanna woody species removal. Wear long pants and closed toed shoes! For information, contact Jewell Lee Cozort, Park Naturalist, at 210-207-3284 (office) or [jewelllee.cozort@sanantonio.gov](mailto:jewelllee.cozort@sanantonio.gov)

## **First Saturday Tour at Bulverde Oaks (AT)**

Sat, February 4, 2017, 9:00 AM – noon

Guided tours of Bulverde Oaks Nature Preserve, a Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas property; tours start at 9 a.m. Donations are welcome. The Nature Preserve is located in the northwest corner of the intersection of Loop 1604 and Judson Road in northeast San Antonio, approx. 1/4 mile north of the loop. The Preserve, under development, is open to the public only on 1st Saturdays every month. For further information contact Ron Tullius: 210-739-2566 or [rvtullius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rvtullius@sbcglobal.net)

## **Balcones Satellite of the Texas Invaders: Invasive Plant Eradication (RM)**

Tue, February 7, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

15890 Highway 16 South, San Antonio, TX 78264

For the month of February, we will continue our eradication activities at the Medina River Natural Area. No prior experience is required. Equipment and materials needed for invasive control will be provided, but if you have favorite loppers, hatchets, saws, etc. bring them. Parking is available in the lot next to the staff building. If this is your first visit to Medina River Natural Area, please allow extra transportation time so that we can begin promptly at 8:30 AM. Wear attire suitable for working in rough terrain and brushy areas with sticky plants, loose rocks, and assorted critters large and small. Waterproof or work boots, gloves, hat, long-sleeved shirts and long pants are strongly recommended. Snake leggings are helpful for going through the brush. Water is essential and insect repellent is likely to be needed. Contact George Ozuna on his cell at (210-669-9935) or by email [gardenarch@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenarch@yahoo.com) or Olivia Tapia at (210-315-4707). To be added to the weekly email list, contact Olivia Tapia at [olivia.tapia.123@gmail.com](mailto:olivia.tapia.123@gmail.com). Those on the list will receive notification of cancellation for severe weather conditions.

## **Native Plant Society of Texas, Boerne Chapter: Attracting Birds in the Texas Hill Country: A Guide to Land Stewardship (AT)**

Tue, February 7, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Cibolo Nature Center & Farm Auditorium, 140 Coty Park Road, Boerne, TX

Biologist Rufus Stephens and educator Jan Wrede have teamed up to write a practical guidebook on how to improve habitat for birds on both small and large properties throughout the Hill Country. They will discuss common problems and possible solutions for developing optimum habitat. Rufus is the TPWD’s district leader for the Edwards Plateau Wildlife District. Jan is a former director of education at CNC and the author of *Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of the Texas Hill Country*. Presentation begins at 7 PM, but everyone is invited to socialize at 6:30! Questions? or for details: Please contact Emily Weiner, NPSOT - Boerne Chapter at <http://www.meetup.com/Boerne-Native-Plant-Society-of-Texas/> or [emily.a.weiner@gmail.com](mailto:emily.a.weiner@gmail.com) or 210-259-7009

# February Training and Volunteer Events

## **WEBINAR: Give me the Numbers - How trees and urban forests really affect stormwater runoff (AT)**

Wed, February 8, 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

In order for managers to make the case for trees and green infrastructure as a part of stormwater management, they must be able to quantify the benefits of such interventions. Current research can aid managers in estimating tree function as a part of a green stormwater infrastructure treatment train. Eric Kuehler will review the most current research regarding the volume of rainfall that tree canopy is able to retain, the increased lag time between rainfall initiation and peak runoff due to canopy cover, reducing runoff velocity, and water volume removed from the soil through transpiration. Aarin Teague will share how Stormwater Design Engineers and Managers can use this research to better quantify the role that the urban forest can play in their overall stormwater management strategy and will discuss one method for estimating tree function and equating to BMP design capacity. This webinar is open to all. This webinar is eligible for 1.0 CEU with the International Society of Arboriculture. 1. First-time users, make sure you can connect if you have never attended an Adobe Connect meeting before, test your connection before the webinar. Go to: [https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting\\_test.htm](https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm) 2. Connect to the webinar. Go to: <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/ucf-500/>

## **Wildscape Demonstration Garden Upkeep (NPA)**

Fri, February 10, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

333 Old Guilbeau, San Antonio, TX 78204

Volunteers will trim and cut back plants; prune and weed as needed. Occasionally asked to apply mulch as needed. Volunteers may be asked to research plants to create signage. Clear growth around walkways and help to maintain walkways for guests. Volunteers should provide their own hand tools, clippers, rake, weeding tools, gloves, etc. New volunteers should contact the work group leader at [epenrod58@gmail.com](mailto:epenrod58@gmail.com) or 830-438-2290 prior to arriving onsite due to the strict parking issues at the downtown location. The Wildscape Demonstration Garden is expected to be relocated some time during the 2017 calendar year to Phil Hardberger Park.

## **Mission Reach Tree Planting (RM)**

Sat, February 11, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Trees planted along the Mission Reach - call for exact location

Join the San Antonio River Authority's Landscaping staff in planting woody species along the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River. For information, contact Yviand Serbones at [yserbones@sara-tx.org](mailto:yserbones@sara-tx.org)

## **Botanical Garden WaterSaver Walk (AT)**

Sat, February 11, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX

Join experts for guided tours of the San Antonio Botanical Gardens! Pre-registration necessary for some walks. These tours are all outdoors, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Meet at the Gertie's Garden (just outside of the Carriage House). These tours are FREE with admission.

## **Picture Your World Youth Photography Program (TR)**

Sun, February 12, 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Medina River Natural Area, 15890 Highway 16 South, San Antonio, TX

The Picture Your World Youth Photography Program hosted by Green Spaces Alliance requests volunteer Alamo Area Master Naturalists to lead nature hikes that engage youth with their environment. Picture Your World workshops incorporate both art and natural science learning by encouraging creative approaches to photography and a greater understanding and appreciation for the natural world. To volunteer, please contact: Carra Garza, Picture Your World Program Manager, Green Spaces Alliance Email: [carra@green-satx.org](mailto:carra@green-satx.org); phone: 210-863-1058.

## **Botanical Garden Bird Walks (AT)**

Sat, February 18, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Pl, San Antonio, TX

Join experts for guided tours of the San Antonio Botanical Gardens! Pre-registration necessary for some walks. These tours are all outdoors, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Meet at the Gertie's Garden (just outside of the Carriage House). These tours are FREE with admission.

# February Training and Volunteer Events

## **MLAC Beginner Bird Walk (AT)**

Sat, February 25, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, 10750 Pleasanton Road, San Antonio, TX

4th Saturday of each month, \$8 non-members, Free for Members Travelling by foot, this bird tour is perfect for the beginning birder! Your guide will go over basic bird identification techniques, proper binocular use, and apply it in the field. Experience several of our varied habitats on your walk to see a variety of bird species. This walk is family-friendly and suitable for all ages. Bring: water bottle, closed-toe shoes, bug spray, hat, sunscreen, binoculars and favorite field guide if you have them For information, contact Jacob T Stush, MLAC, 210-628-1639.

## **PHP Oak Loop Walk: Sunrise Bird Walk (AT - TR if assisting)**

Sat, February 25, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Phil Hardberger Park West, 8400 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX

Hear a brief introduction on area birds and birding followed by a walk in areas surrounding the Urban Ecology Center led by Patsy & Alan Kuentz and Lora Reynolds. Go to <http://www.meetup.com/Alamo-Sierra-Club-Outings/> and the date (8am February 25) for a full description. Contact Wendy Drezek ([stanwendre@gmail.com](mailto:stanwendre@gmail.com)) for additional information.

## **Native Plant Society Spring Symposium (AT)**

Sat, February 25, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Lady Bird Wildflower Center, 4801 LaCrosse Ave, Austin, TX

The Wildflower Center and Native Plant Society of Texas present the Spring Native Plant Symposium, a one-day seminar on the environmental benefits of native plants (including maintaining biodiversity and attracting wildlife. For registration, copy the following link to your browser: <http://npsot.org/wp/story/2016/9491/> For information, call 512-232-0122 or email [info@wildflower.org](mailto:info@wildflower.org)

## **Texas Waters Webinar I: The Characteristics, Components and Value of Healthy Watershed Ecosystems (AT)**

Mon, February 27, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Wherever you have an internet connection

February's Texas Waters Webinar on "The characteristics, components and value of healthy Watershed Ecosystems" will happen on February 27th from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Our guest presenter will be Megan Bean, TPWD's Watershed Ecologist in Inland Fisheries. You may remember her presentation at Texas Waters Day 2016. Please register for Texas Waters Webinar I on Feb 27, 2017 6:30 PM CST at: <https://goo.gl/II5ACr>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Remember, you can choose to attend individually or with a group but all members must be registered. Please ensure your chapter has approved the webinar for Advanced Training, and that you keep a record of your attendance so it can be recorded in the Volunteer Management System. For information, contact Johnnie E. Smith, M.Ed., Conservation Education Manager, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at [Johnnie.smith@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Johnnie.smith@tpwd.texas.gov), 512-389-8060 (work) or 512-517-5527 (cell).

## **Native Plant Society of Texas - San Antonio.**

### **Presentation: Getting to the Roots of Mycorrhizae and Healthy Soils (AT)**

Tue, February 28, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Lions Field Adult and Senior Citizens Center, 2809 Broadway, San Antonio, TX

David & Teresa Steinbrunner (Wildroot Organics, Boerne, TX) will discuss mycorrhizae. "Mycorrhizae" means "fungus root" and defines the symbiotic relationship between soil fungi and plant roots. Mycorrhizal fungi increase the absorbing surface area of roots 100 to 1000 times, enabling plants to increase nutrient and water uptake as well as releasing powerful enzymes into the soil that capture essential nutrients. Mycorrhizae promote plant and soil health, which is greatly beneficial in preventing plant diseases. Meetings of the San Antonio chapter of NPSOT are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month and are free and open to the public. Native plant & seed exchange is at 6:30 PM and the meeting follows. [www.npsot.org/sanantonio](http://www.npsot.org/sanantonio)

# Texas Master Naturalist License Plate

Calling on all Texas Master Naturalists!

A campaign is being launched at [gofundme.com/tmnllicenseplate](http://gofundme.com/tmnllicenseplate) so Texas Master Naturalists and their friends can obtain an official Texas specialty license plate that will advertise the important volunteer work of the TMN, which has 46 chapters and more than 9,600 volunteers serving Texas communities.

A deposit of \$8000 is required to begin the process of creating a Texas Master Naturalist Specialty License Plate. The system is set up so that once 800 license plates are sold, the \$8000 is refunded. Because of the way the fees are structured from GoFundMe.com (5% + 2.9% + .30 per transaction for a total of 7.9% + .30 per transaction), an additional \$1000 would be needed for processing, totalling of nearly \$9000. Help spread the word about this campaign and donate any amount. All funds will work toward making this dream a reality. The first 800 plates sold will see these funds donated to the conservation fund. After the first 800 plates are sold, the original \$8000 will be then be refunded and then donated to the Texas Master Naturalist Endowment Fund. The funds will not be returned to the donor. If each TMN or friend donates \$1, we will exceed the goal! Please support the work of the Texas Master Naturalists!

Allison Copony  
Heartwood Chapter



## Join Our Mission and Reach for a Shovel!

### 2016-17 Mission Reach Tree Planting Events

This is the ideal tree planting season and we are calling on volunteers to help as we have trees that need a permanent home! Join the San Antonio River Authority's Landscaping staff in planting woody species along the #MissionReach of the San Antonio River!

December 10	January 14	February 11
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Registration is required. To register and for more information, contact Yviand Serbones at [yserbones@sara-tx.org](mailto:yserbones@sara-tx.org).



@sanantonioreiver



\*for RM

## SPRING BREAK NATURE CAMP!

Your kids won't want to miss this amazing camp, hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Bexar County! We will learn all about nature: entomology, horticulture, agriculture, wildlife and microbiology with guest speakers and experts in nutrition, agriculture, entomology, ornithology, herpetology and wildlife.

Get up close and personal with birds of prey; do some birding; touch and play with insects and tarantulas in an entomology lesson; see a variety of local snakes with the chance to hold a real one; perform a science experiment with germs, learning what surfaces have the most bacteria; perform experiments and crafts with plants; and much more!

**Field Trip on Wednesday, March 15th, must sign a release form for transportation. AM and PM snacks provided, please bring a sack lunch.**

MARCH 13-16 2017

AGES 6-11

3355 CHERRY RIDGE, STE 208

9AM-2:30PM

\$115

**Register online at:**

**<http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/BexarCounty>**

**Questions? Need more info?**

**Please contact Molly or Ruby at 210-631-0400 or [mekeck@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mekeck@ag.tamu.edu)**



*Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.*