

Alamo Area Chapter News

January 2015

txmn.org/alamo



EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 1

AAMN BOARD MEETING

January 13

5:30 PM

AgriLIFE Extension
Classroom 208

General Meeting 7-8PM
Richard Heilbrun will present updated information about the Teaming With Wildlife Coalition

OFFICERS

President

Liz Robbins

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Camille Gong

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Immediate Past President

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ANNUAL LASAGNA DINNER RETURNS on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at our first meeting and gathering of the New Year. Thanks to the Hospitality Committee, all AAMN members are invited to enjoy an evening of lasagna tasting before the 7:00 pm training session. AAMN has been holding this festive annual New Year celebration lasagna dinner since 2011. Many thanks go out to NANCY BROWN, who will be spearheading this event. An RSVP to her at nan.bro@att.net is appreciated for menu planning. If you'd like to share a favorite side dish, salad, dessert, or lasagna dish, please let Nancy know. All contributions are appreciated. Serving time begins around 6:30 pm.



Pin distribution and advanced training session on Teaming With Wildlife, presented by Richard Heilbrun, begins at 7 pm. To learn more about Teaming With Wildlife, visit their website at <http://www.teaming.com> or their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/TexasTeamingWithWildlife?fref=ts>

MEMBER DUES: If you have not sent in your dues, please do so ASAP. If you prefer, just bring your form and \$12 check to the meeting in January. Treasurer Nancy Thoss will be present to receive your dues. You can find a copy of the form on this link.

<http://txmn.org/alamo/join-the-alamo-chapter/activity-approval-form/>

DRILLING for PINS: Susan Campbell will be available to get those holes drilled in your pins from 5-6pm that evening. If you have a Dremel drill and would like to assist, please contact Susan at susan.campbell@sanantonio.gov. A \$5 donation, which goes toward the chapter, is appreciated.

POTLUCK RECIPES: AAMN has added a new link to the website located on the right side of the main page under Member's Area. There you'll find a few of our member's favorite potluck recipes. You are all encouraged to send in a favorite potluck dish recipe that you have shared at some of our special events or snack dishes shared with your classmates during training classes. Send those to liz.robbins.44@gmail.com.

THANKS go out to the Hospitality Committee and Chair Sharon Kilmer for transforming the Gathering Hall at the PHP Urban Ecology Center into an unforgettable holiday scene. Thanks also go to PHP Staff for being on hand and assisting with the facilities. To all who pitched in with side dishes, desserts, & decorations and assisted with setup and clean-up, thank you too! It was a splendid party and having it at the UEC for a second year in a row made it that much more special.

COMMITTEES

Activities Information

Chair Pam Ball
pball12@satxrr.com

Community Outreach

Chair Matt Carley
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Historian

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Hospitality

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Programs

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Education and Training

Chair Pam Ball
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Newsletter Policies

Though we try to publish all material we receive, space is limited in each month's newsletter. Long articles may be published on the website instead of the newsletter, or they may not be published. 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.

PINS AND AWARDS

Congratulations to all our pin recipients!

2014 Recertification - Armadillo

Jeanne Bodine - T
Kimberly Cabe - 34
Bob Cage - 26
Bonnie Carson - 30
Gail Cooper - 4
Kay Cosby - 25
Karen Davidson - 28
Karen Davis - 33
Pat Fahrenthold - 33
Dawn Hatch - 33
Sara Key - 30
Annabelle McGee - 10
Catherine Oberkamp - 33
Alicia Ramsey - 32
Timothy Roan - 31
Keri Schmidt - 33
Denise Schneider - 10
Stephenie Staph - 30

500 Hours Dragonfly

John Marrs - 23

1000 Hours Dragonfly

Judith Shockley - 25

If you were expecting to receive a pin in 2014 but didn't, please email Nancy at nthoss1610@yahoo.com



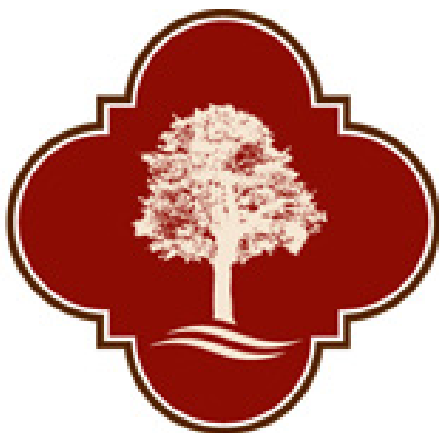
The 2015 Annual Recertification Pin

San Antonio Parks and Recreation Natural Areas Stewardship Activities

While so much of nature seems stark and bare, winter yet is filled with harbingers of hope and life. Wildflower sprouts, though newly germinated, steadfastly persist despite cold temperatures. Swollen buds on tree branches promise new growth. Even some birds, including our state bird the Northern mockingbird, defend winter territories, thus increasing the chances for a productive breeding season; so even in deep winter, look for nature's reminders of the promise of renewal.

Our highest priority this month is helping the trail contractor working on the new Friedrich Wilderness Park trails. Because the contractor has not yet given me a January work schedule, I am only scheduling one January work day for now. See the schedule below and feel free to contact Jayne Neal at Jayne.Neal@sanantonio.gov or 210-207-3785 if you have questions. As soon as trail construction work times become available, they will be posted on the Master Naturalist calendar.

Thurs., January 8, 7:45-11:30 AM (VSH) Small juniper management, and/or tree protection repair at Friedrich Park West. Meet at the gate at 7645 Heuermann. There are neither restrooms nor water at this location.



PARKS & RECREATION
SAN ANTONIO

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Class 25

Ron Tullius
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Class 26

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Class 29

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Kathryn Gilson
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Class 35

Peter Ravdin
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April Thomason
alamocat@gmail.com

January Training and Volunteer Events

Guided Hike to the Protected Habitat (AT)

Sat, January 3, 8AM-4PM

Government Canyon, 12861 Galm Road, San Antonio, TX 78254

Members of the Government Canyon Activities Committee and Trail Patrol will lead a hike to the Protected Habitat Area starting at 8:00 AM. Participants must be at least 14 years of age and physically able to hike 12 to 13 miles over broken, rocky terrain with a good portion of elevation gain and loss. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian; no pets please. The hike will last until around 3:00 or 4:00 p.m., depending on participants. Dress in layers appropriate to the weather. Carry at least 3 liters of water per person, snacks, lunch, sunscreen, hat, and raingear. Wear sturdy, well-broken-in hiking shoes or boots. Participation is limited. Reservations are required and will be accepted until noon on January 2, 2015. Sorry, no group reservations. Make your reservations online at <http://friendsofgc.org/events/>. Include names of each participant, age if under 18, email address and telephone number. Natural Areas fees apply. For information email activities@friendsofgc.org or call 210-688-9055; ext. 289.

January Monthly Meeting - Boerne Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas: "20 Years in the Texas Hill Country" (AT)

Tuesday, January 6, 6:30PM

Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Rd, Boerne, TX 78006

Speaker: Bill Neiman, Native American Seed
Presentation begins at 7pm, 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 or 210-259-7009

Hike the Canyon (AT)

Sat, January 10, 8:30AM-noon

Government Canyon, 12861 Galm Road, San Antonio, TX 78254

Join the Friends of Government Canyon and the Sierra Club for a jointly-led guided hike on one of the many trails at Government Canyon State Natural Area. Length of hike will range from 4 to 7 miles depending on the group. Open to ages 13 and over; minors must be accompanied by an adult; group size limited to the first 12 people. No pets please. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear sturdy shoes for hiking over rough terrain; bring two liters of water and a snack. Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower; 8:30 AM – Noon; subject to cancellation; no reservations required; Natural Area entrance fees apply. For more information and to confirm program, call 210-688-9055, ext. 289.

Explore the Canyon (AT)

Sat, January 17, 8:30AM-noon

Government Canyon, 12861 Galm Road, San Antonio, TX 78254

Knowledgeable guides discuss the flora, fauna, natural and cultural history of this awesome natural area on this exploration. Length of walk and interpretive topic will vary, depending on the group. Open to all ages; minors must be accompanied by an adult; group size limited to the first 12 people. No pets please. Dress appropriately for the weather, sunscreen and hat recommended. Wear sturdy footwear for hiking over rough terrain; bring two liters of water and a snack. Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower; 8:30 AM – Noon; subject to cancellation; no reservations required. Natural Area entrance fees apply. For more information and to confirm program, call 210-688-9055, ext. 289.

January Training and Volunteer Events

Texas Tough Landscape Series (AT)

San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels Ave, San Antonio, TX

Meet with gardening experts in these roundtable forums to discuss basic design principles and implementation techniques for a drought-tolerant, low-maintenance landscape using native and well-adapted plants. Sponsored by SAWS. Fee: \$10 per class (\$9 members).

Class I: A Proper Introduction

Sat, January 24 from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

What is a Texas Tough Landscape? This class will outline and explain the seven principles of Texas Tough Landscaping and help you create a beautiful and water-wise landscape.

Registration: <https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/Texas-Tough-Landscapes-I-A-Proper-Introduction>

Class II: Planning and Designing

Sat, January 31 from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Explore the many options for a Texas Tough yard. With San Antonio's increasingly severe drought conditions, learn how to create a landscape that uses its natural and adapted abilities to survive the drought.

<https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/Texas-Tough-Landscapes-II-Planning-and-Designing>

Winter Brrrrds of Government Canyon (AT)

Sun, January 25, 8:30AM-1:30PM

Government Canyon, 12861 Galm Road, San Antonio, TX 78254

Join Steve Hawkins, member of SA Audubon Bird Records Committee and Friends of Government Canyon Activities Committee, on a hike to see birds that are wintering in Government Canyon SNA. 8:30 AM-1:30 PM. Binoculars can be provided if the participant requests when making their reservation. Participants should be able to hike 3 miles (round trip) over rugged but beautiful trails with a fair amount of elevation gain. Dress for the weather, probably cold, and possibly wet, and wear sturdy shoes. Bring at least a liter of water, and a snack if you like. Group size limited; participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian; no pets please. Meet at the rainwater harvesting tower. Reservations required; accepted through noon January 16, 2015. Sorry, no group reservations. Make your reservation online at <http://friendsofgc.org/events/>. Include name of each participant, age if under 18, email address and telephone number. Natural Areas fees apply. For information email activities@friendsofgc.org or call 210-688-9055; ext. 289.



Cultivate Yourself



News from the Balcones Satellite of the Texas Invaders

As we wrap-up our activities for 2014, we would like to thank all of our volunteers for an exceptional year! In 2014, 65 volunteers contributed 528 volunteer hours eradicating invasive plants along the Leon Creek Parkway, the Madla Natural Area, and Helotes Creek. The Balcones Satellite of the Invaders of Texas program continues to lead the state in the number of volunteer hours spent eradicating invasive plants!

In February, we presented a workshop entitled, "Stop the Spread, Spread the Word, Just Do It!" at the Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council statewide conference at the Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. Our presentation included strategies on how to recruit, train, inspire, and retain local volunteers; increase awareness about invasive plants through educational outreach; and eradicate invasive plants in an urban environment.

In March, we assisted Balcones Satellite member Karen Treu in collecting data about invasive plants in her community of Hollywood Park. After the assessment, Karen began to work with Hollywood Park tree committee members to start addressing the problem. As a result of her efforts, Karen was recognized as Citizen of the Month in the May, Invaders of Texas I-Wire!

In June, we trained new citizen scientists and supported the development of a new satellite at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. The new Mitchell Lake group was recognized as Citizen Scientists of the Month in the June, Invaders of Texas I-Wire! In August, we presented a workshop on invasive plants to 67 members of the Gardening Volunteers of South Texas at the San Antonio Garden Center. In September, we offered an exhibit on the nonnative, invasive plants affecting our local habitats at the San Antonio NPSOT fall plant sale/educational event held at Phil Hardberger Park.

In October, the Native Plant Society of Texas awarded Lonnie and Judith Shockley the Nancy Benedict Memorial Award for their outstanding work with the Invaders of Texas Program during the past five years! They received the award at the Annual Fall Symposium in Texarkana. Lonnie and Judith were also named as Citizen Scientists of the Month in the October issue of Invaders of Texas I-Wire!



On November 12th, we shared our eradication and volunteer strategies with the Invasive Species Advisory Committee of the National Invasive Species Council. The committee, made up of federal experts and stakeholders from across the nation, provides advice and consultation to the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). Members of the Committee were in San Antonio and Austin to learn how to better manage and respond to urban invasive species issues. Also in November, we also introduced Keystone High School National Honor Society students to the challenges of invasive plants through a morning hike and eradication activity on the Leon Creek Greenway. We also sponsored a joint eradication work day at the Madla Natural Area with students from the Trinity University Phi Sigma Pi academic honor fraternity.

As we wrap up the year, we thank each and every one of you for helping us to spread the word about invasive plants!

In San Antonio, local volunteers are needed for eradication of invasive plants. No prior experience is required. Wear sturdy shoes, long-sleeved pants and shirts and gloves. Bring water. We have a supply of tools, but welcome anyone who brings their own. For details of exact location and directions, contact Lonnie at lonnieshockley@satx.rr.com. Those on the mailing list will receive notification of the location of the eradication area and cancellation for severe weather conditions.

Help Us Name SARA'S Public Nature Parks



The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) is seeking public input in naming three SARA-owned and operated parks. SARA staff will be offering FREE tours for the public to visit and learn more about these parks during the month of February.

- February 7, 10 a.m. – Property formerly known as “Catfish Farm”
8400 Old Pearsall Rd. San Antonio, TX 78252
- February 21, 10 a.m. – Loop 1604 River Access Site
6890 S. Loop 1604 E. Elmendorf, TX 78112
- February 21, 11 a.m. – County Road 125 River Access Site
1239 County Rd. 125 Elmendorf, TX 78112



SARA will review all submissions and will choose the final names through an internal selection process. The final names will be announced in May 20, 2015 and winning submissions will be recognized by SARA through public outreach.

Submissions will be accepted through April 24, 2015. For official rules and how to submit a park name, visit www.sara-tx.org.



Fire Ecology: Elements of a Prescribed Fire

January 10, 2015, 8am - 3pm (AT)



Fire is a valuable land management tool that provides both ecological and financial benefits. When conducted properly, prescribed burning is safe and beneficial for wildlife and brush control. Experts in prescribed burning will provide you with everything you need to know to conduct a prescribed burn, including:

- **Reasons for Burning**
- **Notification & Regulations**
- **Weather**
- **Liability**
- **Equipment**
- **Hazards, and Firebreaks**
- **Planning and Conducting a Burn**



This workshop is HANDS ON, allowing participants to take part in the process of creating a firebreak by using fire to prepare black lines (weather permitting.) You will also learn about resources and sensible burn strategies that minimize risks while helping you meet your management goals.



PRESENTERS:

Marsh Weiershausen

(Hill Country Prescribed Burning Association, President)

Bill Armstrong (TPWD Biologist, retired)

Dusty Bruns (Award Winning Rancher)

Wesley Evans (TPWD Regional Fire Coordinator)

CREDIT

3 TDA Pesticide CEU's

1 TDA Burn Manager CFT

TUITION

\$25.00 CNC Members; \$30.00 for Non-Members;

\$20.00 For Members of the Hill Country Prescribed Burning Association

Memberships are available at the workshop

PLEASE BRING A SACK LUNCH



REGISTER ONLINE OR CALL
www.Cibolo.org | 830.249.4616
140 City Park Rd, Boerne, TX