

# Alamo Area Chapter News

## May 2016

txmn.org/alamo



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

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 5

#### AAMN BOARD MEETING

May 10 at 5:30 PM  
AgriLife Extension  
3355 Cherry Ridge  
Classroom 208

#### General Meeting 7 PM (AT)

Kayla Gasker will give a talk about the Mission Reach Project Avian Study.

#### OFFICERS

President  
Matt Carley  
carleymatt@gmail.com

Vice-President  
Aubrey George  
ageorge13@att.net

Treasurer  
Nancy Thoss  
nancy4gardens@gmail.com

Secretary  
Ron Tullius  
rvtullius@sbcglobal.net

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

#### President's Message

Howdy folks! Man, has it been a busy month. I had always heard reports of "baseball-sized hail," but never had I experienced it until a few weeks ago when San Antonio got a good dose of it. It was fascinating to watch, and I couldn't resist the temptation to run out and grab a few samples to store in my freezer; but like many natural events that seem cool to view from a safe place, the painful and sometimes sorrowful lesson comes after the storm as you witness the devastating results and the ensuing ripple effects they cause. It made me wish I had a hail pad handy. If you participate in CoCoRaHS, rain reporting, you may have heard of this. Here is the link to make a hail pad:

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=MakingHailPads>.

On to some good news! The Alamo Area Master Naturalist New Class Committee did an outstanding job these past few months in coordinating the training for our new Master Naturalist trainees. This past weekend, 40 new graduates received their diplomas. Martha Cray and the Hospitality Committee in conjunction with the new graduates, their families, friends, and many AAMN members were on hand at the San Antonio Botanical Garden to create a veritable cornucopia of delicious food to celebrate the occasion. I am pleased to report that there appeared to be enough forks for everyone (see January newsletter). Well done, everyone involved.

After the graduation, I headed over to Phil Hardberger Park to see how the progress was going on the Butterfly Learning Center's new Hatch House. We are grateful to Wendy Leonard, SAPAR staffer, for introducing us to ECC, Environmental Chemical Company. Their president, staff, and volunteers erected a good portion of the final structure in one day as part of their Earth Day construction project commitment. Thank you ECC, PHP, and the volunteers at the BLC.

So much more happening than I can mention here. Thank you to everyone for what you do and where you do it.

—Matt

## COMMITTEES

### **State Representative**

Stan Drezek  
stanwendre@gmail.com

### **Activities Information**

Pam Ball, Director  
pball12@satx.rr.com

### **Community Outreach**

Jeanette Geiman, Director  
jjgeiman@icloud.com

### **Historian/Archivist**

Keeley Porter  
keeley.porter@gmail.com

### **Hospitality**

Martha Cray  
mcray@satx.rr.com

### **Membership**

Nancy Thoss, Director  
nancy4gardens@gmail.com

### **Media & Technology**

Evelyn Penrod, Director  
epenrod58@gmail.com

### **Web**

Pat Symchych  
pat@symchych.com

### **Newsletter**

Cristina Gonzalez  
clealgonzalez@gmail.com

### **Calendar**

Frank Ballard  
fm4459@sbcglobal.net

### **Programs**

Tom Brotherman, Director  
electric\_water\_boy@yahoo.com

### **Education and Training**

Liz Robbins, New Class Director  
liz.robbins.44@gmail.com

### **New Class Representatives**

Mike Tayloe  
miket@mytaxcpa.biz  
Debra Haynes  
debbiegriffin07@yahoo.com

## Pins and Awards

Congratulations to all our pin recipients!  
Those who haven't received their pins may  
pick them up at the May chapter meeting.

### **Initial Certification Dragonfly**

Catherine Berkeley – 38  
Penelope Boyer – 38  
Kenneth Butler – 38  
Joseph Gonzales – 38  
Ryan Loyd – 38  
Pam McMillie – 38  
Shellie Runnels – 38  
Carl Thornton - 38

### **2016 Recertification – Guadalupe Bass**

Matt Carley – 32  
Lynda Cher – 37  
Martha Cray – 37  
Sherie Gee – 37  
Cheryl Hamilton – 21  
Mary Homan – 26  
Patsy Inglet – 8  
Carolyn Lang – 36  
Priscilla Williams – 34  
Pam Yarnold – 24

### **250 Hours Dragonfly**

Jana Gibbons – 32  
Tom Kinsey – 33  
Hal Manzke – 34  
Betty Sutherland – 30

### **500 Hours Dragonfly**

Tom Brotherman – 29

### **1000 Hours Dragonfly**

Stan Drezek – 27

### **2500 Hours Dragonfly**

Wendy Drezek - 30

### **4000 Hours Dragonfly**

JW Pieper – 13

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

**Class 25**

Ron Tullius  
210-739-2566  
rvtullius@sbcglobal.net

**Class 26**

Dwight Henderson  
dwhighth10@hotmail.com  
Billie Murrell  
bmurrell6@att.net

**Class 27**

David Reichert  
reichert@satx.rr.com  
Evelyn Penrod  
epenrod58@gmail.com

**Class 28**

LeLynn Koch  
jeflel@yahoo.com

**Class 29**

Tom Brotherman  
electric\_water\_boy@yahoo.com

**Class 30**

Randy Baker  
randy.baker@satx.rr.com  
Alba De Leon  
adeleon.tx@gmail.com

**Class 31**

Camille Gong  
camille\_bach@yahoo.com  
Robert Ambriz  
robert\_ambriz@hotmail.com

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

**Class 32**

Matthew Carley  
carleymatt@gmail.com  
Susan Campbell  
susan.campbell@sanantonio.gov

**Class 33**

Jennifer DiCocco  
jennifer.dicocco@sanantonio.gov

**Class 34**

Chuck Saxer  
cpsaxer@att.net  
Kathryn Gilson  
kcgilson@gmail.com

**Class 35**

April Thomason  
alamocat@gmail.com

**Class 36**

Mike Tayloe  
210-462-7041  
miket@mytaxcpa.biz  
Myles Siegel  
626-890-7199  
myles.siegel@scouting.org

**Class 37**

Debra Haynes  
debbiegriffin07@yahoo.com  
Martha Cray  
mcray@satx.rr.com

**Class 38**

Ryan Loyd  
ryanloyd@gmail.com  
Joe Gonzales  
jgonzales2050@satx.rr.com

---

NEWSLETTER Tales—A Look Back in Time

*What newsletter items did AAMN members encounter in past issues?*

**Feb 2000:** Volume 4, Issue 2 — Ophelia Ernst reported on Tree Planting at VIA Bus Stops: “Thirteen volunteers assisted with the...November 6th and November 19th planting of 200 trees. Trees were planted at 20 bus stops in each of the 10 city council districts.” Master Naturalist “crew leaders” attended a session with city arborist Debbie Reid to get the instructions necessary to organize community volunteers and to teach them how to plant a tree correctly. “VIA personnel will be watering and maintaining the trees for the next two years...”

**Aug 2000:** Volume 4, Issue 8 — In her President’s Column, Thea Platz reported: “There are currently six chapters operating in Texas, and by year’s end that number will double with 12 chapters... Last month a team from South Carolina met with representative from San Antonio to get advice on becoming the first Master Naturalist chapter outside the state.”

Congratulations Alamo Area Master Naturalist Class #38 on a great spring training session and a marvelous graduation day filled with information, camaraderie, and great food!



Photos Courtesy of Luis M. Garza

# May Training and Volunteer Events

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

Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM  
Mornings in May are still cool enough to enjoy being outdoors! Please join our group of dedicated volunteers to eradicate invasive plants. No prior experience is required. Sturdy shoes, long-sleeved pants and shirts, gloves and water are necessary. 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](mailto: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.

## **Butterfly Gardening and Permaculture (AT)**

Tues, May 3, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Rd, Boerne, TX 78006  
Ernesto O. Carino was born in Puebla, Mexico, and graduated with an accounting degree from University Mexico City. He retired from HEB and opened Medina Garden Nursery in December 1999. He is the owner of the Medina Garden Nursery and lives in Medina, TX. Ysmael Espinosa was born in Kerrville, TX and attended Norte Dame Catholic School and Tivy High School. He worked at HEB and is the Manager of the Medina Garden Nursery. Ernesto and Ysmael both are gardeners. Medina Garden Nursery opened in 1999. Ernesto and Ysmael have experimented growing many native plants from seed, cutting, or divisions. Learning their requirement by trial and error, growing condition, and sharing information how to manage natives over the long term for best results. They grow many native plants that are not very common in the nursery trade and some that rare. The Nursery has a two acre demonstration garden utilized as outdoor classroom. Our topic is Butterfly Gardening and Permaculture. A step-by-step Powerpoint presentation on our experience with Straw bale gardening and other permaculture techniques. We will also discuss how native plants can attract many butterflies. Free and open to the public. 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

## **Growing Up Wild: Deep Blue Sea (ages 3-7) (AT)**

Wed, May 4, 10 AM – 11:30 AM  
Friedrich Wilderness Park Classroom, 21395 Milsa Road, San Antonio, TX  
Develop an awareness of oceans and ocean life through stories, songs, and hands-on activities. Growing Up Wild builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Activities are designed to provide an early foundation for an appreciation of nature. RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email [nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov](mailto:nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov).

## **Starting Out Wild: Leapin' Lizards (ages 1-3) (AT)**

Thurs, May 5, 10 AM – 11 AM  
Friedrich Wilderness Park Classroom, 21395 Milsa Road, San Antonio, TX  
Learn about lizards and other reptiles through stories, songs, and hands-on fun! These high energy, engaging programs are a perfect way to foster an appreciation of the natural world. It is recommended that a child be walking and a parent or caretaker attend with each child. Most classes will take place outdoors. RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email [nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov](mailto:nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov).

## **Sounds of Spring (ages 8 and up) (AT)**

Sat, May 7, 9 AM – 10:30 AM  
Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, 7222 Luskey Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78256  
In the spring, birds are very vocal while attracting their mates and defending their territories. This is a perfect time to take a walk through Crownridge with premier birding educators Patsy and Tom Inglet who will help identify and appreciate these avian songsters. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email [nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov](mailto:nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov).

# May Training and Volunteer Events

## **Prairie Vegetation Survey Training (AT)**

Tue, May 10, 9 AM – 12 PM

ABK State Natural Area, 7690 Hwy 46 West, Pipe Creek, TX  
Anne Adams and Carolyn Walden will provide training for a prairie vegetation survey to be conducted at ABK SNA during May and June. An introduction to the materials and methods will be presented in a classroom setting, followed by hands-on practice in the field. Participants will learn how to estimate cover of herbaceous vegetation in a 20 cm x 50 cm rectangular frame, and how to collect cover data along a transect line. Cover will be estimated for each species in a frame, and identification of grasses and forbs will be practiced in the field during the training. This survey will be repeated annually to document vegetation in four old agricultural fields at ABK SNA. Data collected this year will be used to develop a restoration plan for each field. In the future, surveys will document changes in vegetation, either before, or after, restoration efforts. Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, and a hat, as well as sun and bug protection. Water and ice will be available, but please bring your own water bottle. There is no charge for the training; however we request that those taking the training sign up for at least one survey date in May or June (Tuesdays and Thursdays). A signup sheet will be available at the training. Please e-mail [aadams@wildblue.net](mailto:aadams@wildblue.net) or [carostanwalden@earthlink.net](mailto:carostanwalden@earthlink.net) to register, or for additional information.

## **Monarch Biology, Ecology & Citizen Science**

Fri, May 13, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Cibolo Nature Center & Farm auditorium, 140 City Park Road, Boerne, TX

Master Naturalists Kip Kiphart & Cathy Downs will host a training session for the Monarch Larval Monitoring Project. This workshop will cover monarch biology and life cycle, milkweed ecology, monarch migration, and citizen science projects to monitor monarchs. Participants will visit the CNC's milkweed patch to monitor for monarch larvae. Live butterflies and caterpillars will be on display. This is the most comprehensive workshop on Monarch butterflies and Monarch Monitoring in the State of Texas! Suggested Donation: \$20. Register at <https://goo.gl/pfKdZz>

## **Dinosaur George at Eisenhower Park (all ages) (AT)**

Sat, May 14, 10 am – 11 am

Eisenhower Park, 19399 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78257

Dino George is back, and brings his renowned dinosaur program to Eisenhower Park! On display will be amazing replicas of dinosaur skulls and teeth, including giant killer birds and large Texas mammals. Dinosaur George engages adults and children of all ages. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email [nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov](mailto:nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov).

## **Prairie Vegetation Surveys (FR)**

Tue, May 17, 9 AM – 12 PM

ABK State Natural Area, 7690 Hwy 46 West, Pipe Creek, TX  
Volunteers will collect cover data for prairie vegetation species in four old agricultural fields at ABK State Natural Area. The survey will require a fair amount of walking through deep grass with uneven terrain while carrying some equipment. Teamwork and following a written protocol will be important. In June, volunteers will also help mark transects in one field that was not previously surveyed. Collected data will be used to develop a restoration plan for each field, with the goal of restoring native grasses and forbs. Data collected this year will also serve as a baseline for comparison with changes in vegetation following restoration. Additional dates will be May 19, 24, 26, 31 and June 2, 7 and 9 (if needed). Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, and a hat, as well as sun and bug protection. A hiking stick, binoculars, and work gloves may also be useful. Water and ice will be available, but please bring your own water bottle. Please email [aadams@wildblue.net](mailto:aadams@wildblue.net) or [carostanwalden@earthlink.net](mailto:carostanwalden@earthlink.net) to register, or for additional information.

## **Growing Up Wild: Deep Blue Sea (ages 3-7) (AT)**

Wed, May 18, 10 AM – 11:30 AM

Friedrich Wilderness Park Classroom, 21395 Milsa Road, San Antonio, TX

Develop an awareness of oceans and ocean life through stories, songs, and hands-on activities. Growing Up Wild builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Activities are designed to provide an early foundation for an appreciation of nature. RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email [nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov](mailto:nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov).

# May Training and Volunteer Events

## **Starting Out Wild: Leapin' Lizards (ages 1-3) (AT)**

Fri, May 20, 10 AM – 11 AM

Friedrich Wilderness Park Classroom, 21395 Milsa Road, San Antonio, TX

Learn about lizards and other reptiles through stories, songs, and hands-on fun! These high energy, engaging programs are a perfect way to foster an appreciation of the natural world. It is recommended that a child be walking and a parent or caretaker attend with each child. Most classes will take place outdoors. RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email [nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov](mailto:nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov).

## **Introduction to Birding at the Headwaters Sanctuary (AT)**

Sat, May 21, 8:30 AM – 10 AM

Headwaters Sanctuary, University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, TX

Let's take a morning to pause, enjoy the Sanctuary surroundings, and observe our feathered neighbors. Patty Leslie Pasztor and Christine Turnbull will offer bird walks in the Headwaters Sanctuary. Patty is a regular instructor for Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, the San Antonio City Parks, and several Texas Master Naturalist Chapters. Christine is the President of the San Antonio Audubon Society. Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes. Bring water and binoculars, if you have them! Some binoculars will be available on loan. We will meet at the Sanctuary entrance near the tool shed. The walks are limited to 14 people. Friday, April 15, from 8:30 to 10:00 am. Saturday, May 21, from 8:30 to 10:00 am. To make a reservation, please contact Pamela Ball at [pamela.ball@amormeus.org](mailto:pamela.ball@amormeus.org)

## **Botanical Garden Native Plant Walk (AT)**

Sat, May 28, 10 AM – 11:30 AM

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

Explore the 11-acre native trails area with a Master Naturalist. No registration required. Meet in Gertie's Garden. Contact person: Ron Tullius, [rvtullius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rvtullius@sbcglobal.net) or 210-739-2566.

## **Rolling Oaks Cave Preserve Volunteer Workday (RM)**

Sat, May 28, 10 AM – 2 PM

Rolling Oaks Cave Preserve, 224 Laurel Ridge Lane, San Antonio, TX

The main purposes of the workday are to clean up the grounds (trash and branches) and to continue the dig at Niche Cave, which is full of old farm trash and sediment that is washing in. We need people, buckets, & shovels. Bring your own drinks and snacks for the work. The Texas Cave Management Association (TCMA) will provide bottled water, bananas and light lunch. All visitors to the Preserve will be asked to sign a liability waiver. Meet at 10:00 AM. Bring your own cave gear if you wish to enter any of the four Preserve caves after the dig. Contact Ellie Thoene at 509-899-0007 or [ellie.thoene@gmail.com](mailto:ellie.thoene@gmail.com) in case any one gets lost, or if you would like coordinate more details. No need to RSVP if you are attending, just show up! Trip will be canceled in the event of rain. The event is sponsored by TCMA. Texas Cave Management Association exists to acquire, conserve, and manage caves, and to promote research and education regarding caves and karst while providing responsible access to our preserves.

## **PHP Butterfly Learning Center Workdays (RM - 2 hours AT if needed)**

Sun, May 29, 10 AM – 3 PM

Monthly on the last Sunday

<https://goo.gl/LfO2fH>

AAMN, in partnership with the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy, and SAPAR Natural Areas are starting a new Butterfly Demonstration Garden located at the end of Voelcker Lane, found just north of the East PHP, off Blanco Road. Parking is at 1099 Voelcker Lane (<https://goo.gl/LfO2fH>). Once parked, follow the mulch trail that leads toward the back of the wooden homestead. You will find the demo garden on the right at the fenced in area. Do not enter through the gate. MN Drake White-Class #36 will serve as the coordinator for this project. If you are interested in becoming part of this wonderful, fun, & exciting project, check the schedule below and show up or contact Drake White at: [drakeaamn@gmail.com](mailto:drakeaamn@gmail.com) for more information. (Falls under the PHP/C & SAPAR & AAMN umbrella.)

# San Antonio Parks and Recreation Natural Areas Stewardship Activities

Have you ever seen spit-like masses of white bubbles attached to vegetation? Known by the common names spittlebug and froghopper, these masses actually conceal the larval forms of the superfamily Cercopoidea (<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/digital/metcalfe/spittlebugs.html>). Those bubble masses not only protect the insect from predators, but they also keep it from drying out. According to <http://www.everythingabout.net/articles/biology/animals/arthropods/insects/spittlebug/>, “the spittle is a mixture of watery waste; air, which is blown through abdominal openings to make bubbles; and a glandular secretion.” Pretty cool—protection and hydration all in one frothy package! By the way, the common name froghopper derives from the fact that the adult spittlebug is a proficient jumper.



cool—protection and hydration all in one frothy package! By the way, the common name froghopper derives from the fact that the adult spittlebug is a proficient jumper.

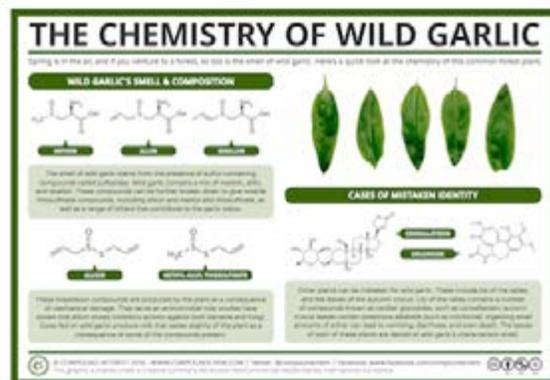
We'll work every Thursday, splitting our time between Friedrich Wilderness Park and Crownridge Canyon Natural Area. Please see schedule below. Please bring leather work gloves, and note that construction on Babcock between Camp Bullis and Luskey may impact your travel route.

May 5 and 19, 8:00–11:30 AM (VSH)  
Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa,  
meet in the Administration/Classroom  
building

May 12 and 26, 8:00–11:30 AM (VSH)  
Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, 7222  
Luskey, meet in the parking lot.

## Recommended Science Blog

Master Naturalist Bill Woller — Class 1 recommends Andy Brunning's science blog Compound Interest (found at <http://www.compoundchem.com>) as a useful reference for AAMN members as a whole. The blog primarily consists of Creative Commons licensed infographics that accompany brief articles about topics in chemistry.



# Monarch Biology, Ecology & Citizen Science



Friday, May 13, 2016  
9am - 4pm



Human impacts on the environment have degraded butterfly habitats and the Monarch Butterfly needs your help!

Come learn about Monarch Butterflies, including:

- \* Monarch life cycle stages
- \* Threats to the monarch population
- \* Creating monarch habitats in your yard and neighborhood
- \* Projects & organizations that preserve and protect monarchs that you can support
- \* How to collaborate with international researchers to monitor monarch populations

The workshop is presented in collaboration with the Monarch Joint Venture by Monarch Watch Conservation Specialists Kip Kiphart and Cathy Downs, and Ben Eldredge, Director of Education at the Cibolo Nature Center & Farm.

*Training is approved for credit for Master Naturalists.  
Continuing education credit for teachers is also available.*

Includes Lunch, Suggested Donation \$20

Register Online [www.Cibolo.org](http://www.Cibolo.org)



140 City Park Rd.  
Boerne, Tx 78006  
830-249-4616

