



NEWS

Alamo Area Chapter

www.txmn.org/alamo

Volume 16, No. 4

Events
Volunteer Opportunities
Education & Training

April 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By *Liz Robbins*

To all AAMN Members, Friends & Families:

Please join us on May 11, 2012 for the

- 3rd Annual AAMN Spring Fling
 - 5:00 - 8:00 PM
 - Eisenhower Natural Area
- Dinner & tea will be provided by The Barbecue Station - \$10 a plate.
BYOB - No Glass, please.



Texas Storksbill photo by Liz Robbins

- To confirm your attendance, please mail checks to Nancy Brown, made payable to AAMN, at 17203 Eagle Hollow Drive, SAT - 78248.
- If you can help with set-up or clean-up, please contact Nancy at nan.bro@att.net. Approved for VSH if assisting.
- Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert for sharing.

BON VOYAGE TO NANCY PHILLIPS

Nancy and her husband Lee will be joining the Dell Computers Austin family very soon. Nancy is a member of Class 20 and has served as the AAMN chapter historian since 2010. As historian, she has diligently worked on the chapter scrapbook and has presented the scrapbook at two of the state TMN annual meetings. I personally want to thank Nancy for helping me set up the first outreach tables & booths at various city and university events. We are very proud of you Nancy and appreciate your dedication and time given to the chapter. Members will probably always remember your famous words, "Pictures! Please send pictures!" Nancy, the AAMN chapter wishes you all the best as you begin this new & exciting adventure with your family just a hop, skip and a jump away!



Board Meeting
April 10th
5:30 pm
AgriLIFE Extension
Classroom #208
General Meeting
7:00-8:00 p.m.
AgriLIFE Extension
3355 Cherry Ridge
San Antonio, TX 78232

OFFICERS

President
Liz Robbins
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830-336-2778

Vice-President
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Nancy Thoss
nthoss1610@yahoo.com

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Barbara Harder
bdjharder@sbcglobal.net

Immediate Past President
Anton Hajek
tonyhajek@yahoo.com

NEWS FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Projects to be reviewed for approval as a Master Naturalist activity must be submitted on the Submission for Activity Approval form before the event. Forms can be obtained by contacting Pamela Ball, pball12@satx.rr.com, or from the AAMN website at: <http://txmn.org/alamo/join-the-alamo-chapter/activity-approval-form/>

PLEASE REPORT YOUR HOURS !

ACTIVATE YOUR 2012 GOOGLE DOCS ACCOUNT TODAY

Reporting hours is easy on **Google Docs**. See directions below. If you need help, contact:

Last names A-H

Nancy Thoss
nthoss1610@yahoo.com

Last Names I-M

Howard Homan
hhoman@satx.rr.com

Last names N-Z

Ling Yin Liu
ling.liu@sanantonio.gov

'One of a kind' recertification pins are awarded each year to those who achieve eight hours of advanced training and 40 hours of volunteer service. This year that pin is a Mexican Free-tailed Bat. Milestone dragonfly pins are also awarded for 250, 500, 1000, 2500, and 5000 VSH.

Frequently Asked Questions About Entering Hours

Many members have begun using the revised Google.Docs hours spreadsheet, and as with anything new, there are questions. Here are the most common ones along with the answer. Please do continue to contact the Membership Committee with questions. It is through your questions and experiences that they can continue to improve the system.

What do I do if the sponsor or location is not on the pull down list?

When the sponsor or location is not on the pull down list, type it in. Typing an entry overrides the list. When you do this, Google.Docs puts a small orange triangle in the top right corner of the cell. This is a warning only (not an error). Google.Docs is just telling you that you did not use the pull down list. Your entry is in the file, and it will be included. At year end, the Membership Committee will review usage and potentially add or delete sponsors and locations based on number of times they were used. When you do key in an entry, please be consistent with spelling on subsequent entries.

How do I record prep-time or close-out time for an activity?

The volunteer hours worked getting ready for an activity and also the hours worked finishing the activity should all be recorded using the same Primary Type of Work as the actual activity. Examples include: planning, organizing, managing, preparing, set-up, clean-up, close-out or administrative tasks. These tasks may be performed the day of the activity or weeks leading up to or after the activity. The location may be different. Example: The preparation and planning is done at home and the actual activity occurs at a park or natural area.

What do I do if the primary type of work is not on the pull down list?

Use "other" when the primary type of work is not on the pull down. The types of work currently on the list were selected because they are the ones most helpful for chapter reporting. In the future, new descriptors may be added should reporting requirements change.

How do I record sponsor when there is more than one sponsor?

Enter whichever sponsor is the primary. The original activity application form gives clues, but unfortunately is not currently available for easy access. When a primary cannot be determined, then you can over-ride the pull down list and manually key multiple sponsors. (see question #1 above)

What do I do if two "primary type of work" apply to the activity?

Use the "primary type of work" that best describes the dominant work performed for the activity. When in doubt, use "other".

COMMITTEES

Activities Information
Chair Pam Ball
pball12@satx.rr.com

Community Outreach
Chair Lissa Martinez
lissa@satx.rr.com

Historian
Nancy Phillips
anrjp1@aol.com

Hospitality
Chair Nancy Brown
nan.bro@att.net

Membership
Chair Nancy Thoss
nthoss1610@yahoo.com

Media & Technology
Chair David Reichert
reichert@satx.rr.com

Newsletter/Web
reichert@satx.rr.com

Calendar
Frank Ballard
fm4459@sbcglobal.net

Programs
Chair Jessica Leslie
jleslie01@hotmail.com

Education & Training
Chair Pam Ball
pball12@satx.rr.com

Put something in every column A-F in each row.

The three columns in RED have drop-down lists.

Use slash / like 1/17/2012

Be specific !!

Scroll Bar

Click this little box several times to force the Scroll Bar to appear.

Choose from drop-down list; type-in only if not in drop-down list.

No Yes



See Page 8 for more
CNC Workshops

CNC Volunteer Workday

Sat, April 14, 9am – 12pm
Cibolo Nature Center Park, ([map](#))
Spend the morning pulling weeds, picking up trash and other to-do projects. Meet at the pavilion at 9 for your assignments.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

Boerne Birders CNC Family Birding Day

Sat, April 21, 8am – 10am
Cibolo Nature Center Pavillion, ([map](#))
This free outing is especially for families with children who have an interest in birding. Check out the Visitor Center bird feeders, and look for birds along the CNC trails. Contact Phone: 830-249-4616

Approved for Advanced Training

Feather Identification Workshop (AT)

Sat, April 21, 9am – 3pm, Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, Learn bird feather identification with Dave Scott, author of Bird Feathers: A Guide to North American Species. This FULL DAY class will teach participants to identify feathers that they find in the field through a combination of shape, size, and color. Knowledge of wing morphology and feather identification is an amazing addition to your birding tool box. The class will be half lecture and half hands-on lab. Dave Scott will be bringing feathers from over 50 species occurring in North America. Contact 830-249-4616 Email: nature@cibolo.org Registration Fee All attendees \$ 50.00 Class plus optional lunch \$ 60.00 *Approved for Advanced Training*

MONTHLY MEETING

April 10 Meeting, 7:00pm-8:00pm

Lee Marlowe, a restoration ecologist with the San Antonio River Authority, will give a presentation titled, “Restoring and Managing Native Plant Communities for Improved Ecological Functions”. The presentation will provide an overview of ecological restoration and fundamentals for managing restored plant communities with an emphasis on San Antonio riparian areas which can experience extremely dynamic conditions. Local case studies from the San Antonio River Improvements Project will be highlighted, and the importance of balancing the habitat goals with other aspects of the project including recreation will be discussed. Please join us as we examine watershed restoration in our backyard. A \$3 donation for the AT is suggested.

Meetings Approved for Advanced Training



Pond Management Program

Friday, April 27, 8:30 am to 12 noon
Brehm Farms - 7871 FM 775 - New Berlin
You need to RSVP by April 25 to Angel Torres at the Bexar County Extension Office 210-467-6575, or Guadalupe County Extension office 830-303-3889. *Approved for Advanced Training*

Watershed Management Workshop

April 18, 8am-4pm, Victoria Educational Gardens, 283 Bachelor Dr, Victoria
The training is open to anyone interested in improving water quality in the San Antonio Bay/Guadalupe Estuary region, Participants are encouraged to pre-register at <http://tws.tamu.edu>

Approved for Advanced Training

30 Bugs Every Gardener Should Know

Tue, April 3, 2pm – 4pm, Bexar County Extension Office, ([map](#))
Board-certified entomologist Molly Keck of Texas AgriLife Extension Service is hosting a “learn-all” about our spring and summer bugs. Learn which ones you are likely to come across this spring and summer, how to manage them, how to encourage them, and just what they do in our environment. Cost \$10. A check preferred, made out to “Texas AgriLife Extension Service.” You may pay in advance or at the door. Please RSVP to Molly at 2100-467-65755 or mekeck@ag.tamu.edu.

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AWARDS SUMMARY

By Nancy Thoss

Dragonfly

Tom Brotherman - 29

Mexican Free-tailed Bat

Kimber Briggs—25	Michelle Curry - 29
Monique DeVries—20	Anne Gulley - 20
Barbara Harder—25	Howard Homan - 26
Patsy Kuentz - 27	Chris Menzel - 23
JW Pieper - 13	Mary Sanders - 27
Nancy Thoss - 28	

250 Hours

Alan Kuentz - 27 Mary Sanders - 27

500 Hours

Roy Leslie - 24 Chris Menzel - 23

1000 Hours

Lonnie Shockley - 23

Reminder Notice: Please enter all service and advanced training hours you have earned this year in Google Docs by April 2. Our First Quarter Hours Report needs to be sent in to the state shortly after the end of the quarter on March 31.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Class 25 & State Rep.

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

Class 26

Dwight Henderson
210-496-5934
dwight10@hotmail.com

Class 27

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& Evelyn Penrod
epenrod@gvtc.com

Class 28

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& Phil Minor
minorpa@hotmail.com

Class 29

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& Damon Bartlett
texaswilddlife47@yahoo.com

Class 30

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

Westcave Preserve Tours

([map](#)) Saturdays, usually 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4 pm & Sundays, usually 10am, 2pm & 4pm (call 830-825-3442 for details) The tours takes visitors from an arid savanna through a limestone crevice into a sheltered canyon of lush plant life. At the head of the canyon stands a 40-foot waterfall replenishing the emerald pool below. Register for programs by calling Westcave at 830-825-3442 or e-mailing info@westcave.org. Fee: \$5 adult, \$2 child or \$15 family. *Approved for Advanced Training*



Picture Your World, see pg. 5.

San Antonio Parks & Recreation—Natural Areas

Medina River Natural Area 2012 Spring Field Trip Tour (VSH)

Tue, 4-3, 8:30am–12:00pm, Wed, 4-4, Thurs, 4-5 & Fri. 4-5; all from 8:30am-12:00pm, Medina River Natural Area, ([map](#)) Pleasanton Elem - 5th grade. Five field guides needed. Field Guides report at the office area of Medina River Natural Area. Point of contact: Susan Campbell, Education Coordinator at Medina River Natural Area at 210-307-3106 or email, Susan.Campbell@sanantonio.gov.

Volunteer Days at Eisenhower (VSH), Sat, April 7, 8am – 12pm, Eisenhower Park, ([map](#)) This volunteer project will focus on native landscaping and a meadow restoration project in the center of Eisenhower Park. Please call us at (210) 564-6401 for more information.

Sounds of Spring Walk (AT), Sat, April 7, 8am – 10am, Friedrich Wilderness Park, ([map](#)) In the spring, the birds are very vocal while attracting their mates and defending their territories. Patsy and Tom Inglet will help you identify and enjoy the avian songsters. Reservations are suggested; walks occasionally change. Call: 210-372-9124 or email peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov Participants are limited to 15 per hike. Meet near the restrooms. A donation of \$2 per person, max \$6/family is suggested.

Explore! Spring 2012 - grade 1-4 (VSH if assisting)

Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa Rd, San Antonio, Tx ([map](#)) Volunteers are needed for Home School Elementary classes

Tue, April 10, 9:30am–11:30am, Awesome Aquifers, 1st-4th graders

Tue, April 10, 12:30pm–2:30pm, !Circulation, dissect a heart, 4th-8th gr.

Thu, April 12, 9:30am–11:30am, Explore Awesome Aquifers, 1st-4th gr.

Thu, April 12, 12:30pm–2:30pm, !Circulation, dissect a heart, 5th-8th gr.

Mon, April 23, 9:30am–11:30am, Reading the Landscape, 2nd-5th gr.

Contact Peggy Spring, COSA Education Coordinator, 210-564-6402.

Friedrich Wilderness Park Field Trip (VSH if assisting)

Wed, April 11, 10am – 12pm, Friedrich Wilderness Park, ([map](#))

Leon Valley Elementary School will have second graders at Friedrich for a field trip. As this school has two bilingual classes, volunteers with a passing knowledge of Spanish are needed. Contact Peggy Spring, COSA Natural Areas Education Coordinator, at 210-564-6402.

Super Serpents (AT)

Sat, April 14, 10am – 12pm, Eisenhower Park (mass pavilion), ([map](#)) Learn about non-venomous and venomous snakes. The program presented by the South Texas Herpetological Association will allow those attending to get up close and personal with several snakes as they learn about the habits and habitats of these interesting local reptiles. Call 210.372-9124 or email peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov for reservations and information. Suggested donation: \$3.00/person or \$5.00/family.

San Antonio Natural Areas Stewardship (VSH)

Thurs, 4-5, 8:30-11:30am, Crownridge Caynon ([map](#))

Thurs, 4-12, 8:30am – 11:30am, Friedrich Wilderness Park ([map](#))

Thurs, 4-19 & 4-26, 8:30-11:30 Rancho Diana ([map](#)). On any given day we may be pulling and/or herbiciding invasive plants, removing secondary ashe juniper, or checking and repairing/replacing wildlife exclosures. Please bring/wear closed toe shoes, long pants, long sleeved-shirts, water, and a backpack. If you have your own compass, GPS, work gloves, loppers, and/or hand saw, bring them—but we also have them to loan. Questions? Contact Jayne Neal (Jayne.Neal@sanantonio.gov, 210.372.9124).

Native Landscape Certification Program - Level 1 (AT)

Sat, April 21, 8am – 5pm, Friedrich Wilderness Park ([map](#))

Learn identification of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses native to Bexar County and authorized for use in commercial sites and housing developments. Cost: \$35. For more information on offerings or to receive a registration form by email, send a request to npsotnlcp@aol.com or call 210-733-0034. You can get more information and print out a registration form to send in with your check at www.npsotn.org/SanAntonio.

Government Canyon

State Natural Area ([map](#))

Most of these events have limited sizes, age limits, no pets, call (210) 688-9055, ext 291 or ext 289, 292 for information and details. Fees may apply.

Golden-cheeked Warbler Hike, April 1, 2012

Join Steve Hawkins on a hike to the Backcountry of Government Canyon SNA to see this species whose world-wide nesting grounds are found only in Texas. Wear sturdy shoes, hat, sunscreen, and bring at least one liter of water per person; 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Meet at the rainwater collection towers. Registration required and will be accepted until noon March 31, 2012. For reservations/more information, e-mail reservations@friendsofgc.org Please include name of each participant, age if under 18, e-mail address and telephone number for each reservation. Natural Area entrance fees apply. (210) 688-9055, ext. 289

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Hike the Canyon, Sat, April 14, 8:00am – 12pm

Length of hike will range from 4 to 7 miles. Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower; subject to cancellation.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting

Explore the Canyon, April 21 8:30 am-12pm

Knowledgeable guides discuss the flora, fauna, natural and cultural history of this awesome natural area on this exploration. Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting

2012 Wildlife for Lunch Webinar Series

<https://texas-wildlife.webex.com> to log on to the live

webinars. For more information contact: Courtney Brittain, Texas Wildlife Association, (210) 826-2904 ext. 122, www.texas-wildlife.org or cbrittain@texas-wildlife.org

April 19: Riparian Management, 201, Sky Lewey

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Flora and Fauna of Central Texas Certificate Series

Sat, April 21, 9am – 4pm, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, ([map](#)) Presenting a new 8-class series focusing on the natural history of Central Texas wildlife and plants. Explore the history of early Texas naturalists, understand the basics of our local ecology and geology and study native plants through hands-on, field-based botany. In the second part of the series you will learn all about the life histories of birds, mammals, reptiles/amphibians and insects including basic identification, taxonomy, common species, local species of concern and related conservation issues. The fauna classes include an on-site field portion when possible. Classes can also be taken individually and are all held at the Wildflower Center in Austin, TX. 10% discount for members. Sign up for all courses in the series and receive an additional 10% discount when you register. For more information visit <http://www.wildflower.org/gonativeu>.

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Texas State Parks need your help, now.

As Master Naturalists, many of us already contribute volunteer time in our state parks. But did you know that the State Parks also need financial support?

Because of record drought, wildfires and the associated lower attendance that goes with these problems, our parks are finding it difficult to make ends meet. In short, they need \$4.6M to stay open. Learn more about the challenge and how you can help from TPWD Executive Director, Carter Smith at the [TPWD Website](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).



Tours of Selah, the Bamberger Ranch

Selah, the Bamberger Ranch, is located at 2341 BlueRidge Drive Johnson City, Tx. 78636, Website: www.bambergerranch.org phone: 830-868-2630, reservations only, fee: \$15 per person tour: 3 1/2 hours, April 7, 8-12:00

Bamberger Ranch is a study in conservation and restoration. It has native grasses now, as well as springs emerging from the surface. Birds and wildlife abound.

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Green Space Alliance Spring Creek Ranch, March 5th Picture Your World Project Manager Sherry Christenson thought AAMN Mary Sanders did a great job helping the kids learn about and photograph nature.



1st Saturday: April 7
Jeff Domingues will talk and demo about snakes. 9am-11am at the Salado Creek Outdoor

Classroom. Hold a kid-friendly snake.

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AAMN 4th Saturday Program, April 28

AAMN and the PHPC are co-sponsoring the Fourth Saturday Programs at the park. **Native Fiesta Flowers**, Sat March 24th, 10am—12 pm. Let Lottie Millsaps & Liz Robbins show you what's blooming in Phil Hardberger Park and how early settlers used flowers in medicines and foods.

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Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

([map](#))

Together Green Community Volunteer Days

Sun., 4/1/12: 8 am to noon & Sat., 4/21/12: 9 am to noon. Come help us prepare our native plant gardens for the spring.

Some simple garden maintenance will help us to provide habitat for butterflies and other wildlife. You will learn about great plants and what you can do at your home! No experience necessary, ages 12 and up.

*Free, space is limited, RSVP is required. * For info:

mlac@audubon.org or call (210) 628-1639

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours.

Basic Birding for Adults (AT)

Sat, April 21, 8:30am – 11:30am

MLAC Docents Tom & Patsy Inglet share tools, tips, & techniques for you to build your birding skills. The class is 1.5 hours of instruction and 1.5 hours in the field. Bring binoculars & a bird field guide; we also have some to loan. * Program fee: \$10 for MLAC members; \$15 for non-members * Space is limited, RSVP is required * For info or to RSVP:

mlac@audubon.org

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Bird Count/Survey (VSH)

Sat, April 28, 8am – 12pm

Bird count/Survey is conducted every fourth Saturday. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing, including a hat, long pants, closed-toe shoes. Wear sunscreen and bring water! We can even loan you binoculars if you need them. For more information, email us at mlac@audubon.org or call (210)628-1639.

Approved for Advanced Training

Top 20 Plants for Birds - Program & Plant Hike, Sat, April 14, 9am – 12pm, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, ([map](#))

Program presented by Judit Green, Urban Wildlife Biologist, TPWD. Top 20 countdown to the most valuable native plants that will draw in birds to your backyard. We will also offer help to identify birds. To Register: contact mlac@audubon.org or call 210-628-1639. Program fee: \$10 for MLAC members; \$15 for non-members. *Approved for Advanced Training*





WaterSaver Gardening Walks at 10:00 am April 6,7,21

Learn how to create a beautiful landscape at your home and conserve water with a guided tour of the WaterSaver Garden exhibits. Participants also receive a FREE copy of the SAWS Landscape Care Guide.
Approved for Advanced Training

Herbs 101 for the Garden & More (AT) April 7, 9:30am – 1:00pm
Savor the joys of an edible and useful landscape! Herbalist, horticulturalist, and designer Diane Lewis will present a Power Point with great herb pictures and discuss the herbs best suited to our area and how to blend them into everyday life. Learn how to cultivate, harvest and store herbs and save money. Have fun learning how to make a relaxing tea blend and bath salts with samples to take home. Enjoy lunch (recipes provided) and a guided tour of the herb gardens at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Fee: \$43. A \$10 supply fee is payable to the instructor and covers materials, herbal tea, bath salts, and herbal-based lunch.
Approved for Advanced Training

Beginning Bird Walks April 21 at 9am

Enjoy birds in native habitats, and bask in the relaxing atmosphere found in the Garden during a morning bird walk led by one of our experienced guides. Meet at the Carriage House.
Approved for Advanced Training

Native Plant Walks, Friday, April 14: South Texas Trail

Come explore the Texas Native Trails with a Master Naturalist! Meet at the Carriage House at 10:00 am.
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Focus on Native Plants - Program & Plant Hike (AT)

Mon, April 23, 2pm – 5pm
Presented by Judit Green, Urban Wildlife Biologist, Tx Parks & Wildlife Dept. Learn about popular plants available in the local nursery trade that are native to the San Antonio area. You will also learn which plants attract certain wildlife so creating a themed garden, such as a hummingbird garden, will be an easy challenge. The class will also introduce the use of field guides to identify plants and will offer a few tips on placement, maintenance, and nursery availability. A short hike through the Botanical Garden will allow participants to use a field guide and to see some of these plants growing in nature. Next week's class, Native Plant Landscape Design, would serve as a good follow-up class that will focus on designing your garden.
Approved for Advanced Training

Native Landscape Design - Program & Plant Hike (AT)

Mon, April 30, 1pm – 5pm
Judit Green, TPWD urban biologist, will focus on using native and adapted plants in this comprehensive 4-hour landscaping program. She will offer design, installation, and maintenance tips, as well as ideas about plants to incorporate in your design. This workshop will include a hike through the Botanical Garden. Go home with a list of drought-tolerant plants that are attractive to humans, butterflies and birds.
Approved for Advanced Training

For more information, contact Sasha Kodet, Education Director
210.207.3270 • Fax: 210.207-3274 • www.sabot.org

Invaders of Texas
a Citizen Science Program

April is a delightful month for fieldwork. The recent rains have resulted in an explosion of new growth. The wildflowers are in bloom, new leaves and flowers are emerging, and the wildlife is amazing to watch.

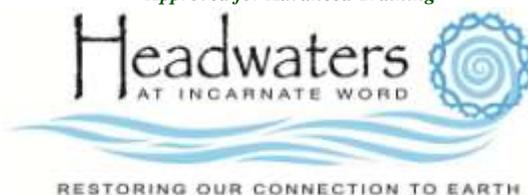
Please join our very active Balcones Invaders in our efforts to restore the Leon Creek Greenway ecosystem. Since June 2011, we have located and eradicated over 1,500 invasive plants on the Leon Creek Greenway. Eradication of the plants exponentially reduces future numbers of plants! New volunteers are always welcome to join our regular group of eradicators!

No prior experience or invasive plant recognition expertise is required – just bring gloves and water and let us know if you are coming so we can have loppers and saws available for you. It's a great way to earn AAMN volunteer hours. We work for two hours every Tuesday morning. If you want to join us and receive a weekly email with details on getting to the exact location, contact Lonnie Shockley at lonnieshockley@satx.rr.com.

Detailed information on all the local and regional invasive plants is available on the Texas Invasives website at www.texasinvasives.org.

April schedule: Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:30 am

April 3, 10, 17, 24: Leon Creek Greenway
Approved for Advanced Training



Headwaters Sanctuary Volunteer Workdays

Fri, April 13, 2pm–5pm and Sats, April 21 & 28 from 9-12
Headwaters Sanctuary Trailhead (GPS: N29.4698, W98.4708), just north of University of Incarnate Word athletic fields ([map](#)) Come learn about and help preserve the Sanctuary that contains the famous Blue Hole, the source of the San Antonio River. We need volunteers to remove invasive species, which helps return the Sanctuary to a more native state.

To get on our e-mail list please contact Howard S. Homan at [howard.homan@gmail.com] or Director Helen Ballew [helen@headwaterscoalition.org].

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

Beginning Botanical Illustration at SABot

Tuesdays & Thursdays, April 3-May 3 from 11 am -2 pm,
Learn the basics of this fine art form in 5 weeks. We will cover some botany through drawing and dissecting, watercolor mixing and painting, perspective and shading. Instructor Margaret Johnston, Fee: \$300. Supply list may be found online at www.sabot.org. Checks may be made payable to the "San Antonio Botanical Society."
Approved for Advanced Training

The **Stone Oak Property Owners Association** has been working with the City of San Antonio to plant more trees in the medians in Stone Oak. The last week of Feb we planted thirty-one 15-gallon trees donated by the City Arborist and coordinated with Public Works on line of site, location, etc. The City also provided gator bags and some mulch until we can get bubblers installed for the new trees. The City has also approved an additional 19 trees for two more islands on Stone Oak Pkwy that will be planted this month. This has been a great return on investment of a few hours a week that I am spending on this project.

Next month, we will start another project to apply about 650 cu yds of organic compost to about 1/2 of the medians in Stone Oak. Last year we applied over 1200 cu yds to all of the islands that greatly contributed to our success rate of not losing any trees, turf, or shrubs during the severe drought.

The next meeting of the San Antonio chapter of the **Native Plant Society of Texas** will feature a presentation by Janis Merritt, former Native Plant Specialist/Designer/Curator for SA Natural Areas and SA Botanical Garden, on “Landscape Design Tips using Native Plants.” Native plant and seed exchange at 6:30 pm, followed by speaker at 7:00 pm. Free and open to the public. **Tuesday, April 24, 2012**, at Lions Field Adult Center, 2809 Broadway. www.npsot.org/sanantonio.

Approved for Advanced Training

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation (WRR) ([map](#))

WRR offers many volunteer opportunities. Volunteers wishing to work hands-on with animals need to attend an orientation. We hold orientations at 2 locations: one in San Antonio and one in Kandalia. The **SA orientations are on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month, the Kandalia orientations are on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. Orientations begin at 10:00 am.** It is requested that anyone attending an orientation first contact the Director of Outreach, Jessica Rice jessicar@wildlife-rescue.org or by phone at 830-336-2725, x304.

Those wishing to participate without working hands-on with animals can help in other ways. There are periodic group opportunities as well as daily individual or small-group opportunities. Anyone wishing to become involved should contact Jessica Rice, using the information above.

Approved for Advanced Training and Volunteer Service Hours

River Walk Garden Workday

Second Friday of every month: 9 am - 1 pm, April 13 Volunteers are needed to cut, trim, and plant at the San Antonio River Walk Garden. Bring cutting tools such as shears, rakes, and clippers and also gloves and water for this workday. This is an AAMN project at the corner of Aubrey and Old Guilbeau on the Riverwalk (north of Durango on west side or river.) Lan Eng (830) 980-2300 or lanbceng@gmail.com

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

James Kiehl River Bend Bird Census

Tue, April 24, 8:00am – 10:30am, James Kiehl River Bend: Comfort, TX 78013 ([map](#)). This bird census is conducted on the fourth Tuesday of every month. It is sponsored by the Kendall County Partnership for Parks. The park is bordered by the Guadalupe river and has easy access fields with excellent wildlife habitat. For more information e-mail to curione@yahoo.com.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

Kreutzberg Canyon Bird Census

Tue, April 17, 8:00am – 10:30am
Kreutzberg Canyon Natural Area: Boerne, TX 78006-7837 ([map](#))
This bird census is conducted on the third Tuesday of every month. It is sponsored by the Kendall County Partnership for Parks. The park has three bird blinds that give a good view of some of the birds. The park also has a variety of habitats including river, field and ravine. For more information e-mail to tmrandle@swbell.net.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours



Wildflower Hike training

April 10, 10:30-12:30: Jackson Nature Park,

Approved for Advanced Training

Wildflower Hike Guided Tours ([map](#))

April 14, 9-11 Jackson Nature Park,

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if assisting

For more information or to volunteer, please e-mail Maura Dudley, SARA Education Coordinator, mdudley@sara-tx.org or Ron Tullius, AAMN liaison to SARA, rtullius@sbcglobal.net.

Wildscaping: Landscaping to Benefit Wildlife (AT)

Thu, April 19, 6:30pm–8:00pm, TriPoint ([map](#))
Hosted by Bexar Audubon Society and presented by Judit Green, Urban Wildlife Biologist, Tx Parks & Wildlife Dept. Native plants and special features can create a beautiful landscape that invites wildlife to your backyard. Attracting butterflies and hummingbirds with nectar rich flowers is easy to do. In addition, adding other simple components will also make your yard a haven for frogs, lizards, songbirds, and some small mammals. Landscaping to benefit wildlife can start with putting out a birdbath or planting a fruit-bearing native shrub. It's not difficult to be successful, and you'll be amazed at the types of wildlife you can attract to your property. Join me in learning what features to incorporate and some common plants to provide to open your back door to a world of wildlife. No registration required, just show up.

Approved for Advanced Training

Canyon Lake Gorge

Preservation Society Workdays

Mon. 2, 9, 16, & 23 and Tues. 3, 10, 17, 24—9am-noon

The first objective would be the gorge invasives. Please be prepared to work on land and/or in the water. Some useful items would be gloves, hat, water, safety glasses and water shoes.

We will meet at the Gorge Preservation Society (GPS) storage building behind the USCOE office. For driving instruction, question or running late please call: Mark Henderson 512-217-4667

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours.



Upcoming Workshops

CULTIVATING NATIVE PLANTS FOR WILDLIFE
 Wednesday, April 4
 6 to 8pm, CNC Auditorium
 \$15 MEMBERS / \$20 NON-MEMBERS



HILL COUNTRY GARDENING 101
 Wednesday, April 16
 6 to 8pm, CNC Auditorium
 \$15 MEMBERS / \$20 NON-MEMBERS



TEXAS MONARCH MONITORING WORKSHOP
 April 11-12
 SEE WEBSITE FOR TIMES, CNC Auditorium
 \$50



WILDFLOWER WALK
 Friday, April 20
 9am to 12pm, Location TBA
 20 MEMBERS / \$25 NON-MEMBERS



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Alamo Area Master Naturalist
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