



NEWS

Alamo Area Chapter

www.txmn.org/alamo

Volume 17, No. 10

Events
Volunteer Opportunities
Education & Training

October 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Liz Robbins

PHP Grand Opening - PHENOMENAL AAMN PARTICIPATION

It's difficult to find the words to describe the PHP-Urban Ecology Center grand opening day! AAMN members everywhere! We were hoping for a "sea of green AAMN shirts." Instead, if I may quote MN Shyamala Rao, we got a **TSU-NAMI!** If you did not have a chance to read the articles about the grand opening, here are links to two articles, one written by MN Bekah McNeel and the other by MN Shyamala Rao. <http://therivardreport.com/nature-meets-city-as-hardberger-parks-urban-ecology-center-opens/>. <http://txmn.org/alamo/files/2012/10/Eco-Center-at-Phil-Hardberger-Park-opens-on-Sept-7-2013.pdf>.

You can also find more photos, taken by Gary Rogers, at the AAMN Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151810786374376&set=pb.261024329375.-2207520000.1379788100.&type=3&theater>

Furthermore, a huge thank you goes out to Pam Ball for coordinating the AAMN table presentations and for the following members who helped with displays.

<i>Greg & Jana Gibbons-Birds</i>	<i>John Prentice-Fish</i>	<i>Cheryl Hamilton-Invasive Plants</i>
<i>Cynthia Nemicik & Arless Lenz-Leave No Trace</i>		<i>Kimber Briggs-Mammals</i>
<i>Patty Leslie-Ethnobotany</i>		<i>Bill Woller-Skins & Skulls</i>
<i>Joanne Wells-Butterflies</i>		<i>Donald Ewers-Photography Hike</i>
<i>Gary Rogers-Nature Hike</i>		<i>Ron Tullius-Fruits of the Season</i>

Thank you, Gary Rogers and Donald Ewers, for the great photos and thank you Bekah and Shyamala for your great articles. And last, but certainly not least, a thousand thanks go out to all the AAMNs who participated and attended the event. Your presence made the day a huge success!

AAMN Class #33 Going Strong!

Class 33 is well into their 4th week of training. The 28 new students have had their first field trip and have had a chance to listen to various speakers and play with "soil" under the guidance of our very own MN David Reichert. Visit the AAMN Facebook page to see Class #33 in action. Photos courtesy of Training Committee member Gary Rogers.

TMN Annual Meeting - Partial SCHOLARSHIP Available

If you are planning on attending the TMN Annual Meeting, October 25, 26, & 27, and have registered for the 3 day event, please send your name and phone number to Liz Robbins by Wednesday, October 2. We'll have the drawing for the scholarship during the training class snack break on October 3rd. I will advise the winning member that evening. Deadline to turn in the name to the state office is October 7.

AAMN Executive Board Elections in NOVEMBER

AgriLife Extension classroom, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Room #208, Tue, Nov 12, 2013, 6:45 pm. If you are interested in running for AAMN President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee, Anton Hajek, Wendy Thornton or Ron Tullius.

Board Meeting**October 8****5:30 pm****AgriLIFE Extension
Classroom #208****General Meeting 7:00-
8:00 pm****Mark Kroeze****Texas Forest Service
Meeting Approved for
Advanced Training****AgriLIFE Extension
Classroom #208****3355 Cherry Ridge
San Antonio, TX 78232****OFFICERS****President**Liz Robbins
srobbins@gvtc.com
830-336-2778**Vice-President**Aubrey George
ageorge13@att.net**Treasurer**Nancy Thoss
nthoss1610@yahoo.com**Secretary**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 2013 GOOGLE DRIVE ACCOUNT TODAY

Reporting hours is easy on **Google Drive**. 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

Deb Balderaz
dbalderaz@satx.rr.com

Unique 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 the Monarch Butterfly. Milestone dragonfly pins are also awarded for 250, 500, 1000, 2500, 5000 & 10,000 hours of VSH.

Newsletter Policies

We try to publish all the material that we receive. Space is extremely limited in the newsletter. Longer articles may be published on the website or not published. We don't publish articles that are political or that advocate particular policies. Event notices must go through Pam Ball. Only the Activities Information Committee is authorized to declare an event approved for AT or VSH, so please don't include this notice in your article. The newsletter software deals very poorly with pre-formatted material. Please don't use tables and block indents. We use black 10 point Times New Roman font with titles in 12 point bold. Articles should be 250 words or less and fit in a half column (including pictures) — longer articles will be edited, posted to the web, or ignored. Event notices may be treated as calendar items. The editor maintains the right to edit or exclude any article. All editorial decisions are final and not subject to review.

PHOTOS PHOTOS PHOTOS

We need photos of AAMN events. Please take a camera on your outings and use it. Send the pictures to David Reichert at reichert@satx.rr.com. We use photos in the newsletter, on the web, in our scrapbook, and for special presentations.

ALAMO AREA
T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



Founding Chapter



Clay models from Soils class.



COMMITTEES

Activities Information

Chair Pam Ball
pball12@satx.rr.com

Community Outreach

Chair Lissa Martinez
lissa@satx.rr.com

Historian

Keeley Porter
keeley.porter@gmail.com

Hospitality

Chair Alicia Hoover
auntalicia@aol.com

Membership

Chair Nancy Thoss
nthoss1610@yahoo.com

Media & Technology

Chair David Reichert
Newsletter/Web
reichert@satx.rr.com

Calendar

Frank Ballard
fm4459@sbcglobal.net

Programs

Chair Tom Brotherman
Elec-
tric_water_boy@yahoo.com

Education & Training

Chair Pam Ball
pball12@satx.rr.com

Trees of San Antonio and South Central Texas with Paul Cox

(AT) Oct18, 25 & Nov 1, 9am – noon

University Presbyterian Church SoL Center, ([map](#))

Learn about trees found in our region, including natives, exotics, appreciated and vilified species. Become familiar with their identification characteristics, culture and points of interest. We will focus on oaks, pines, and palms grown in our area that can be difficult to identify. The first session will meet in the classroom at SoL Center followed by two field trips, to the San Antonio Botanical Garden and the Trinity University jogging trail. About the instructor: Paul W. Cox has served the San Antonio area as a botanist for over 30 years. An alumnus of Stephen F. Austin State University, he received his M.S. in botany and B.S. in biology / forestry. Paul is an international speaker on horticulture, native plants, endangered plant species, prehistoric flora and tropical plants. He has named and released many new plants. He is senior co-author with Patty Leslie Pasztor of [Texas Trees--A Friendly Guide](#), winner of two awards for significant contribution to horticulture. Tuition: \$45 / 3 sessions. Register by Oct. 11. Enrollment: 12 min. / 16 max. To register: call: 210-732-9927 OR e-mail: upcsa@upcsa.org.

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation (WRR) (AT/VSH) ([map](#))

Volunteers wishing to work hands-on with animals need to attend an orientation. We hold orientations at 2 locations. The **SA orientations are on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month, the Kendalia orientations are on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. Orientations begin at 10:00 am.** 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.

Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service –Reception Desk: (VSH)

Answer the phones, transfer calls, plus greet and direct office visitors to the assigned program agent. Call 210-467-6575, or email Aurelia.Hovell@ag.tamu.edu to sign up. Call for days needed. 9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm

Corpus Christi Hawk Watch Spotters (VSH) Oct 1- Nov 15, 9am–5pm, Hazel Bazemore Park, Corpus Christi, TX ([map](#))

Hawk Watching Etiquette: Essential equipment is a pair of BINOCULARS! Wear comfortable clothes and dress for the weather. If you have a reclining, folding chair, that would work; saves your neck from getting sore. Bring insect repellent, also! You just show up between the days posted, from 9am-5pm. Introduce yourself, tell them you're with AAMN and you're there to help. They need you to look up into the sky all the time and announce when you see anything flying in the sky. Once you spot an object with your binoculars, don't put them down till they tell you. You keep looking at the object till they identify it. If you can't ID the bird, don't worry about it. They need spotters — the official counters do all the identifying. When they start counting, don't make noise and don't interrupt or disturb the counters!

For more information contact Liz Robbins at 210-548-8510 or visit: <http://www.ccbirding.com/thw/hb.html>.



Floyd Woller discusses grasses while leading an Oak Loop Nature Walk at Phil Hardberger Park



CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Class 25 & State Rep.
Ron Tullius
210-739-2566
rvtullius@sbglobal.net

Class 26
Dwight Henderson
210-496-5934
dwight10@hotmail.com

Class 27
David Reichert
reichert@satx.rr.com
& Evelyn Penrod
epenrod@gvtc.com

Class 28
Joe Novy
novyja@gmail.com

Class 29
Tom Brothman, electric_water_boy@yahoo.com
& Damon Bartlett
texaswildlife47@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 32
Matthew Carley
matthew.w.carley.civ@mail.mil
210-416-1887
Susan Campbell
susan.campbell@sanantonio.gov

Class 33
Jennifer DiCocco
jennifer.dicocco@sanantonio.gov
Cathy Oberkamp
cathy.the.teacher@gmail.com

The San Antonio River Authority

If you have any questions or are interested in helping out, please contact Josef Kaul at jkaul@sara-tx.org or by calling 210.302.3286.



Mission Reach Grand Opening (VSH)

Oct 5, 10am – 4pm, ([map](#)) Providing information to the public about the Mission Reach. If you are interested in helping, please contact Josef Kaul at jkaul@sara-tx.org or 210-301-3286

SARA Field Hikes (VSH)

Oct 21, 22, 23, 25, 29, 30, 9am – 1pm, Mission San Juan, ([map](#)) Volunteers will lead nature hikes to groups of 15-20 high school students throughout the day. As part of the Mission: R.E.A.C.H. Field Trips, we need trained volunteers to help lead hikes as one of many rotations for the students throughout the day. The focus of the hikes will be on ecosystem restoration, vegetation, and aquatic habitat. It is preferred that at least two volunteers are available each day, but more are always welcome. Any Alamo Area Master Naturalist is invited to help out. The times are subject to change. Confirmed dates so far are October 21,22,23,25,29,30 and possibly 31.

Friedrich Wilderness Park ([map](#)), **Eisenhower Park** ([map](#)), and **Crown Ridge Canyon Natural Area** ([map](#)). Reservations are suggested; walks occasionally change. Call: 210-207-5320 or email peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov. Participants are limited. Meet near the restrooms. Some programs have fees.

"Rottin' Things" Nature Walk (AT) Oct 5, 10am – noon

Eisenhower Park. As we walk the trails of Eisenhower Park, we will observe many natural features but we will focus on decomposition, those processes and critters that turn dead leaves and such back into soil. We'll also look for lichens and other cooperating critters in the park. Reservations are suggested; walks occasionally change. Call: 210-207-5320 or email peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov.

Starting Out Wild, Toddler Program Ages 1-3, (VSH) Oct 11 or 18, 10-11am, Friedrich Park Classroom. We Love Leaves, These energetic, engaging programs include stories, music, games, finger play, crafts and snacks, all based on sound ecological principles. This is a perfect way to begin or foster your young child's enjoyment of the natural world. Children who learn and play outside are smarter, happier and healthier.

Explore! Fall 2013, Friedrich Park Elementary classes - 1st – 4th grade 9:30am – 11:30am, *Explore! Pumpkin Science*, October 22, 23

Friedrich Park Middle School classes - 5th – 8th grade

12:30-2:30, *Explore! Plant adaptations*, October 22 or 24

Welcome to my Web (AT) Oct 12, 7pm – 9pm, Eisenhower Park

Join us for a lively investigation of spiders with a brief walk to look for them with Dr. Cary Guffey from Our Lady of the Lake University. Please bring a flashlight for use along the trail as we try to spot those spider eyes! Call 210-207-5320 or email peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov for reservations .

San Antonio Natural Areas Stewardship (VSH) Oct 10 & Oct 24, 8:30am – 11:30am, Friedrich Wilderness Park ([map](#)) The schedule below shows when and where I PLAN to work with volunteers. However, there is a chance we will be starting to build trails at Woodland Hills, so both our work project and our work site could change by October. So, please send me an e-mail to let me know which date(s) you plan to join us. If you have questions, feel free to contact me (jayne.neal@sanantonio.gov). Our plan is to hike into Woodland Hills North (WHN). WHN has no water, restrooms, or other amenities, so please prepare accordingly. Our plan is to build wildlife exclosures, so please wear leather gloves & tools. I always have tools and gloves to share, so do not worry if you do not have any of your own.

Upper Llano River Watershed in Junction (AT) Oct 16, 8am – 4pm, TTU Center at Junction, 254 Red Raider Ln, Junction, TX ([map](#))

Trainings will focus on the nature and function of stream and riparian zones and the benefits and direct economic impacts from healthy riparian zones. The riparian education programs will cover an introduction to riparian principles, watershed processes, basic hydrology, erosion/deposition principles, and riparian vegetation, as well as potential causes of degradation and possible resulting impairment(s), and available local resources including technical assistance and tools that can be employed to prevent and/or resolve degradation. These one-day trainings in watersheds across the state will include both indoor classroom presentations and outdoor stream walks. The goal is for participants to better understand and relate to riparian and watershed processes, the benefits that healthy riparian areas provide, and the tools that can be employed to prevent and/or resolve degradation and improve water quality. At the conclusion of the training, participants will receive a certificate of completion. Info: Nikki Dictson at (979) 458-5915.



Pins & Awards

by Nancy Thoss

Initial Dragonfly
Lorena Gorum - 31

Annual Recertification - Monarch Butterfly
Richard Adams - 27
Pam Ball - 18
Nancy Brown - 21
Mary Campobello - 31
Stan Drezek - 27
Maxine Dudley - 23
Terry Dudley - 23
Cheryl Hamilton - 21
Alan Kuentz - 27
Patsy Kuentz - 27
Sandra Strother - 31
Karen Treu - 31
Emily Weiner - 32

Boerne Native Plant Society Meeting

(AT) Oct 1, 7pm – 8pm, Agricultural Heritage Museum (in the log cabin) ([map](#)) Micah Voulgaris, General Manager of the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District in Boerne, will be discussing our local climate and groundwater supply. Presentation begins at 7pm, but everyone is invited to socialize at 6:30! Questions? or for details: Please contact Emily Weiner, Public Relations, NPSOT - Boerne Chapter at <http://www.meetup.com/Boerne-Native-Plant-Society-of-Texas/> or emily.a.weiner@gmail.com or 210.259.7009.

Native Plant Society of Texas Meeting

(AT) Oct 22, 7pm – 8pm, Lions Field Adult Center, ([map](#)) 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

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Bexar County has recently started a FaceBook page listing events and posting some photos. The page is at <https://www.facebook.com/AgriLifeBexarCounty> They would appreciate it if you 'liked' the page.

Bexar Audubon Society Program: The

Texas Horned Lizard (AT) Oct 24, 6:30pm – 7:30pm, Tripoint ([map](#)) Ryan Darr of Texas Parks & Wildlife shares his research on the Texas "horny toad". Will it survive for future generations to see? Free & Open to the Public. For information, call Patty Leslie Pasztor at 210-837-0577.

[Guadalupe River State Park](#) ([map](#))

Call Craig Hensley at 830-438-7653. Click link to their web-site. There may be class size limits and/or fees.

Angler Education Instructor Course (VSH if assisting)

Oct 16, 9am – 2pm. Free class for youth leaders, teachers, parents and community leaders who want to introduce fishing and share their love of the outdoors with young Texans. Upon completion of the Angler Education Instructor Class, volunteers receive a special instructor pin, become part of TPWD's Angler Education Team and are able to order incentive awards and educational materials for students. To sign up for this class, contact Caleb Harris at 512-389-4472 or email: caleb.harris@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Butterfly Survey (AT-VSH) Oct 10 & 31, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 pm, see web for details

TMN Annual Meeting and Advanced Training

(AT) Fri, Oct 25, 1:00pm – 11:30pm; Sat, Oct 26, 8am-4pm; Sun, Oct 27, noon-2:00pm, T Bar M Conference Resort & Conference Center, 1-800-292-5469, 2549 Highway 46 West, New Braunfels, Texas 78132-3725 ([map](#)) For more information and to Register On Line: http://www.regonline.com/TMN_14th_annual_meeting

The Latest Climate Science (AT) Oct 15, 6:30pm – 7:30pm, Witte Museum, ([map](#)) Bruce Melton will review the new IPCC report, how oil is responsible for 2.5 times more warming than coal in the short-term, how Greenland and Antarctica are poised to far exceed sea level rise projections; sea level rise so far on Padre Island National Seashore, and how the Amazon is emitting (not absorbing) greenhouse gases at a rate that is 70 percent of total annual U.S. emissions. Melton will also emphasize the good news about climate change with details of how the solutions will be far less troublesome and costly than commonly understood. Bruce Melton is an Austin-based professional engineer, environmental researcher, author and climate science outreach specialist. His internet resource for the Climate Change Now Initiative contains nearly 400 reports on climate science findings, 50 popular press articles, two documentaries, several shorts and much more (<http://www.climatediscovery.com>) . Contact The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club for more information.



Medina River Natural Area ([map](#)) Call or e-mail to confirm-210-207-3106 or Susan.Campbell@sanantonio.gov.

Viva Voluntarios (VSH) Oct 26, 8am – 11am, Help Beautify Your Natural Area! Plant Native and Remove Non-Native Plants. Pick Up Trash, Remove Weeds and Spread Mulch. For more information call 210-207-3106.



Visit the web for [more information](#) on all programs, or contact **Sasha Kodet**, Education Director at sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov or 210.207-3270 • Fax: 210.207-3274 • www.sabot.org, ([map](#)) Some programs have fees and size limits.

Volunteer with Conservatory Team (VSH)

Oct 3, 17, 24, & 31 , 8am – 10am, Seeking a regular Thursday volunteer to help with watering and other gardening tasks in the Conservatory area. For information, call Veronica Dallahan, Volunteer Coordinator, at 210.207.3261 or vdallahan@sabot.org.

Home School Series Assistants needed at SABG

(VSH) Oct 4, 9:30am – 11:30am & 12:30pm - 2:30pm Home School Series Assistants (VSH)- Assist with setup and home school activities. We need one volunteer per shift. Contact Veronica Dallahan, Volunteer Coordinator, at 210.207.3261 or vdallahan@sabot.org.

Little Sprouts Assistants needed at SABG (VSH)

Oct 14, 9:30am – 11:30am, Assist with setup and Little Sprout Activities. Contact Veronica Dallahan, Volunteer Coordinator, at 210.207.3261 or vdallahan@sabot.org.

Beginning Bird Walks, (AT) Each third Sat., Oct 19, 9am -10:30am, 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. Garden bird list [here](#).

WaterSaver Walk, (AT) Sep 6 & 21 , 10am –noon Sponsored by the San Antonio Water System. Get answers to your landscaping questions and receive a FREE copy of the San Antonio Water System's Landscape Care Guide.

Native Plant Walk (AT) Sat, Oct 25, 10am – noon Explore our 11-acre Texas Native Trail with a Master Naturalist! The October walk will be on the Hill Country Trail.

BOOtanica (VSH) Oct 26, 8am – 10am, Help with setup and checking in volunteers, and then enjoy the event when you are done. Contact Veronica Dallahan, Volunteer Coordinator, at 210.207.3261 or vdallahan@sabot.org.

[Government Canyon State Natural Area](#)

For details, call John H. Koepke at (210) 688-9055, Ext. 291, John.koepke@tpwd.state.tx.us or [Events](#). Reservations and fees may be required. ([map](#))

Hike the Canyon (VSH if assisting) Oct 12, 8:30-noon

Full Moon Hike (VSH if assisting)

Oct 18, 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Explore the Canyon (VSH if assisting) Oct 19, 8:30-noon



Help Us Solve the Problem of Invasive Plants

The Balcones Invaders Satellite hosted an invasive plants table at the Phil Hardberger Park Grand Opening on Saturday, September 7th.

A steady stream of visitors expressed dismay when they viewed the poster of the most prevalent invasive plants in San Antonio. *“Ligustrum? I didn’t know that Ligustrum was an invasive plant! Nandina? I thought the berries were useful to wildlife! Chinaberry tree? I grew up with a Chinaberry tree providing shade in my yard!”*

Many visitors indicated that they currently have one or more invasive plants in their yard. We concurred. Nearly every one of the newly trained citizen scientists with the Invaders of Texas program has found that they have one or more invasive plants in their yards!

We explained that many of these plants were brought to our region years ago before we fully understand the unintended consequences of introducing non-native plants into our landscapes. Now, we are becoming increasingly aware of the devastation of invasive plants to biodiversity, human health and wildlife. We are experiencing first-hand the ways in which invasive plants form monocultures, crowd out native plants, and alter ecosystems.

“Wait a minute...I just saw Nandina being sold at my nursery! Why are nurseries allowed to sell invasive plants?” The answer is complex. In the state of Texas, the Department of Agriculture is responsible for promoting agribusiness in the state, including support of the growth and sale of landscape plants. Most of the invasive plants are fast-growing, drought-resistant and inexpensive to grow. Like any other business enterprise, nurseries are motivated by sales. When we have approached local nurseries about their sale of invasive plants, they respond, *“Well, these plants are very popular with our consumers...we will continue to sell them unless there is a law that says that we cannot.”* Or, *“This plant may be a problem in Hill Country, but it is not a problem in Olmos Basin.”*

In fact, there are 31 invasive and noxious weeds in Texas (<http://plants.usda.gov/java/noxious?rptType=State&statefips=48>) including Chinese tallowtree and Chinaberry tree that are illegal to sell. However, there are many other plants that have proven to be invasive that are still being grown and sold commercially. The process of adding an invasive plant to the Texas list of banned plants is time-consuming and tedious. It may take several years, and by then it is too late. (continued on the website)

The entire article including the list of best practices is available on our website. Please [click](#) to finish the article.

October Volunteer Eradication Schedule (Leon Creek Greenway) Tuesday mornings 8:00 to 10:00 AM (VSH) We invite you to join us. No prior experience or invasive plant recognition is required. Just bring gloves and plenty of water. We have a supply of loppers and saws but welcome anyone who brings their own.

For details of exact location and directions, contact Lonnie at lonnieshockley@satx.rr.com



Headwaters Sanctuary Workday (VSH) ([map](#))

Help restore San Antonio's birthright, the Headwaters of the San Antonio River, which contains the historical source of the river, the famous Blue Hole spring. People have been drawn here for over 10,000 years. Ask us about the history. We make trails, remove invasive plants, germinate and plant native species. To get on Headwater's e-mail list or ask questions, please send a note to Howard S. Homan at howard.homan@gmail.com. You volunteers are just the best people! Meet at the Headwaters tool shed near the picnic tables, north of Univ. Incarnate Word baseball field. GPS: N29.4698, W98.4709

Workdays: Oct 2, 4, 9, 12, 16, 18, 23, & 30, 8:30-11:30am

Native Landscape Certification Program Level 1

(AT) Oct 5, 8am – 4pm, Friedrich Wilderness Park, ([map](#))

Level 1 of the Native Landscape Certification Program is an 8-hour course that will help you: - Identify native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses native to Bexar County and featured in San Antonio’s Landscape Ordinance - Identify plants that grow well in nature and in your yard and learn their benefits - Learn how natives help to conserve water, reduce run-off, and improve water quality - Be a better steward of the land in your yard, on the jobsite, and in a wildlife habitat **TO REGISTER FOR FALL 2013 CLASSES:** Go to : www.npsot.org/SanAntonio Questions? E-mail npsotnlcp@aol.com or call 210-732-7138.

Native Landscape Certification Program Lvl 2 (AT)

Oct 26, 8am – noon and Oct 27, 8am-noon, Level 2 of the Native Landscape Certification Program is a 12-hour course available to graduates of Level 1 that will also help you continue to learn to identify and use Texas native plants. Level 2 is offered **October 26-27, 2013.** Saturday at the **San Antonio River Authority** followed by a **half day on Sunday at Phil Hardberger Park East.** **TO REGISTER FOR FALL 2013 CLASSES:** Go to : www.npsot.org/SanAntonio. Questions? E-mail npsotnlcp@aol.com or call 210-732-7138

Bird Censuses are sponsored by **Kendall County Partnership for Parks**, Contact info is at

www.kendallcountyparks.org. All levels of birders are welcome. No potable water in parks.

Kreutzberg Canyon Bird Census (VSH) Oct 15, 8:00am – 10:30am, Kreutzberg Canyon Natural Area: ([map](#)) Every third Tuesday

James Kiehl River Bend Park Bird Census (VSH) Oct 22, 8:00am – 10:30am ([map](#)) Every 4th Tuesday

Joshua Springs Bird Census (VSH) Oct 19, 8:00am – 10:30am ([map](#)) Every 4th Thursday





See [Web](#) for details.

Weed Wednesdays (VSH) Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 7:30am – 10:30am, ([map](#)) The Weed Wednesday volunteer program has resumed. Please meet in front of the playground in PHP west. Contact Wendy Leonard for more information (210) 207-3292 or wendy.leonard@sanantonio.gov.

Doc Edwards™ Amazing Aquifer Adventure! (AT) Oct 5, 9am – 11am, The award-winning Doc Edwards™ Amazing Aquifer Adventure raises awareness of the Edwards Aquifer as a natural resource through a fun, interactive approach. This program is recommended for elementary-aged children and their families. Kid-friendly activity included. Program Inquiries: 210-207-3106 or 210-226-8339. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per individual or \$5.00 per family (All donations fund the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy)

Oak Loop Seasonal Walks (AT-VSH if assisting)

Oct 26, 8:00am – 9:15am, Topic: Wildlife, Insects, and Reptiles, led by Wendy & Stan Drezek, Christine Westerman. For information, contact Wendy Drezek at stanwendre@gmail.com This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it or 493-0939 if you require further information.

Who Wants to Know About Owls? (AT)

A 4th Saturday Program sponsored by AAMN and PHP Conservancy Oct 26, 2pm – 4pm, Master Naturalist Patsy Inglet and the San Antonio Zoo will be presenting on owls. They will be accompanied by “Twig” the owl and lots of “Facts about owls.” Presentation will include an up close and personal look at owl pellets and a “kid-friendly craft” as well. Inquiries: 210-207-3106 or 210-226-8339. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per individual or \$5.00 per family. (All donations fund the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy)

Beekeeping Course (AT) Oct 11, 8:30am – 3:30pm

Bexar County AgriLife Extension Office ([map](#))
A Beekeepers Basics program. Field Trip next day. For more information, please contact Molly Keck at 210-467-6575 or me-keck@ag.tamu.edu

Beekeeping Field Trip (AT) Oct 12, 9am – 2pm

Adkins, TX (address and maps will be provided) ([map](#))
Field Day for Beekeeping Course on previous day. Cost: \$50. For more information, please contact Molly Keck at 210-467-6575 or mekeck@ag.tamu.edu

Essentials of Gardening (AT) Oct 21, noon – 3pm

San Antonio Garden Center, ([map](#)) Free and Open to the Public, 3rd Monday of Every Month. The first session usually starts around 12:15, the second session around 1:30pm. No advance reservations are necessary. \$5 donation appreciated to help cover expenses. (Bring your hand pruning tools and have them sharpened by “Dr. Fix-It” for \$2 each, a donation to Gardening Volunteers of South Texas.) For more information: info@gardeningvolunteers.org or (210) 251-8101.



For details of **CNC events**, visit their [website](#) or call (830) 249-4616. Some events require registration and have fees. ([map](#))

Cibolo Nature Center Incidental Bird Count

Oct 2 & 28, 8am – 10am

CNC Volunteer Workday (VSH) Oct 12, 9am-noon
Bring family and friends to spend the morning pulling weeds, picking up trash and other to-do projects to help keep the CNC beautiful. Meet at the pavilion at 9 for your assignments.

Wildlife Field Research (AT - VSH)

Oct 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12, 9am – 5pm, Wildlife Field Research is a week-long bioblitz conducted every spring at the Cibolo Nature Center. Teams combine their experience, knowledge and enthusiasm to conduct a survey of the Nature Center’s ecology. Adults and children of all ages get involved counting birds, butterflies, plants and other creatures. Lunch is provided daily to all. People of all ages and interests are welcome to participate! Details: www.WildlifeFieldResearch.org Contact info: 830-249-4616

Riverwalk Garden Workday (VSH)

Oct 11, 9am – 1pm. Corner of Aubrey and Old Guilbeau (north of Durango, the west side of the San Antonio River) on the Riverwalk ([map](#))

Weather permitting, volunteers are needed to cut, trim, and plant at the San Antonio Riverwalk Wildscape Garden. Bring cutting tools such as shears, rakes, and clippers and also gloves and water for this workday. It would be great to see some new faces at this garden, our own Master Naturalist project at the corner of Aubrey and Old Guilbeau. The intersection is located north of Cesar Chavez, (formerly Durango) on the west side of the San Antonio River on the Riverwalk. Contact Evelyn Penrod at epenrod@gvtc.com or (830) 438-2290. Sponsored by Alamo Area Master Naturalists Class 2.



Mitchell Lake Audubon

Center, 10750 Pleasanton Road, San Antonio, TX ([map](#)) Some fees apply.



Birding Tours (AT) 2nd Tuesdays, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sats, 7:30am

Bird Count/Survey (VSH) Oct 26, 8am – noon
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 lend you binoculars if you need them. For more information, email us at mlac@audubon.org or call (210)628-1639.

Book Review by MN Roy Leslie
Hillingdon Ranch - Four Seasons, Six Generations
by David K. Langford & Lori Woodward Cantu

If you care about conservation and long term sustainable stewardship, click on the Hillingdon Ranch link below...

If you are awed by incredible photographs from one of the country's premier outdoor photographers, click on the Hillingdon Ranch link below...

If you'd like to have over two hundred beautiful images of a working Hill Country ranch that has been in the Giles family for 126 years and managed with an eye to the next hundred years, click on the Hillingdon Ranch link below...

Some of the photos you will find are from the part of the ranch belonging to me and my sister, Patty Leslie Pasztor. I'm the kid in the inner tube and the old dude relocating sycamore leaf snowbells. That's our 87-year old Mom calling cows to the pens.

About the book: www.hillingdonranchbook.com

Give yourself fifteen or twenty minutes to wander through each subheading on the home page. You will be impressed. Order information is found at ...

Buy now: <http://www.tamupress.com/product/Hillingdon-Ranch,7558.aspx>

There will be a book signing at the Twig Bookstore in the Pearl Complex. The Oct. 19th date may be pushed to Nov. 9th. That and other signings are listed under the Calendar link of the book's Homepage.

**Master Naturalists are
volunteers dedicated to the
conservation,
preservation and restoration
of our natural resources,
promoting
ecological education
for all ages.**



The Alamo Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists
gratefully acknowledges the support
of our sponsoring organizations:



[HTTP://WWW.TXMN.ORG/ALAMO/](http://WWW.TXMN.ORG/ALAMO/)



Alamo Area Master Naturalist
P.O. Box 160543
San Antonio, TX 78280
Return Service Requested