

Alamo Area Chapter News

June 2014

txmn.org/alamo



EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 6

BOARD MEETING

June 10
5:30 PM
AgriLIFE Extension
Classroom 208

General Meeting 7-8PM
Grant Ellis with the City of San Antonio will be presenting about San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer Protection Program

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President's Message

AAMN Summer Round-Up – JULY 12, 2014

Greetings AAMN Members: You are all invited to join us for the July 12, 2014 AAMN Summer Round-Up to be held at the San Antonio River Authority headquarters. We will be offering some advanced training, a tour of the Mission Reach South, a lunch social and the screening of a film, all focused on the San Antonio River riparian areas, and other water conservation issues. Please check your calendars and if you have not saved the date for this event, please do so today. Tentatively the event is scheduled to begin around 8:30 AM and end sometime after 2:00 PM. Once finalized, the details of the day's agenda, schedule, and costs will be sent out to all our members via Pam-Mail. Looking forward to seeing all of you there!

Urban Wildlife Management Workshop a Success!

The Urban Wildlife Management Workshop was held May 8th from 8 am-5 pm at Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center. The workshop covered common wildlife species residents may encounter inside the city limits and the challenges faced when confronted by urban wildlife. Attendees of this workshop were presented with the best management practices for dealing with wildlife in urban areas. Thanks go out to all the AAMN volunteers who were present to assist the TPWD staff. From hospitality duties to registration, MN volunteers were present. There were well over 150 attendees that day, and thanks to the MN volunteers, they were all registered, seated and fed without a hitch.



COMMITTEES

Activities Information

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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 Long articles may be published on the website instead of the newsletter, or they may not be published.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! Those who haven't received their pins may pick them up at the next chapter meeting.

Initial Certification Dragonfly

Valerie Carter-Cole - 34
Charles Saxer - 34
Vicki Tullius - 33

2014 Re-Certification - Armadillo

Randy Baker - 30
Pam Ball - 18
RC Castro - 30
Greg Gibbons - 32
Jana Gibbons - 32
Linda Gindler - 23
Camille Gong - 31
Mary Homan - 26
Alicia Hoover - 30
Jessica Leslie - 20
Susan McDevitt - 31
Anita Ragland - 31
Charles Saxer - 34
Judith Shockley - 25
Lonnie Shockley - 23
Karen Treu - 31
Patricia West - 31

250 Hours Dragonfly

Julie Croisant - 30
Donald Ewers - 31

500 Hours Dragonfly

RC Castro - 30
Desi D'Orsogna - 29

1000 Hours Dragonfly

James Griffin - 31

4000 Hours Dragonfly (new in 2014)

Patsy Inglet - 8
Tom Inglet - 8
Ron Tullius - 25

5000 Hours Dragonfly

Tom Inglet - 8

San Antonio Parks and Recreation-Natural Areas Stewardship Activities June 2014

Because it keeps me connected to nature, fieldwork is one of the things I like most about my job as a naturalist and land manager. After a few years of fieldwork, one starts to notice trends, changes, and incidents where nature seems out of sync. For example, this year there seem to be many more rock squirrels (*Otospermophilus variegatus*) than usual; mesquites (*Prosopis glandulosa*) are blooming earlier, while huisache (*Acacia farnesiana*) are later; and the golden-cheeked warblers (*Setophaga chrysoparia*) arrived well into March instead of early in the month.

My flowering and migration observations are examples of phenologic information, and there is a whole network of scientists and volunteers dedicated to gathering these kinds of data. Phenology, the study of periodic biological phenomena and their relationships to climatic conditions, can help inform land management, economic, and cultural decisions. For example, Arizona land managers use phenologic data to improve invasive species management. By knowing the timing of seed production in the target plant (buffelgrass, *Pennisetum ciliare*), land managers identified the brief window when mechanical control methods could be used without risking inadvertent seed spread (sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320713002334).

To learn more about the USA National Phenology Network, including how to become a volunteer, visit <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/migratio/when.htm>. To help us in our local land management work, see the calendar below. If you have questions, feel free to contact me (jayne.neal@sanantonio.gov or 210-564-6405).

Thurs., June 12 and 26 8:30-11:30 AM (VSH). Meet at Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, 7222 Luskey Blvd. Babcock remains closed between Camp Bullis Rd and Heuermann Rd, so take an alternate route or be prepared to follow a detour. We will be protecting trees, and may also do some trailwork and landscape maintenance.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Class 25 & State Rep.

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June Training and Volunteer Events

Texas Invaders- Balcones Chapter Invasive Plant Eradication (VSH)

Tue, June 3, 7:30AM – 9:30AM

Leon Creek Greenway, San Antonio, TX

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.

Growing Up Wild: Night Owls (VSH if assisting)

Wed, June 4, 10:00AM – 11:30AM

Phil Hardberger Park East Salado classroom, 13203 Blanco Road, San Antonio, TX

Children discover the characteristics of owls in the San Antonio area. They explore and investigate an owl pellet. A kid-friendly craft is included. For information, call 210-207-3106 or 210-207-3280.

Joshua Springs Park & Preserve Comfort Walk Club's Annual Volksmarch (VSH if assisting)

Sat, June 7, 6:30AM – 2:30PM

Joshua Springs Park and Preserve, 716 FM 289, Comfort, TX

KCPP needs your help on Saturday, June 7 at Joshua Springs Park and Preserve during the Comfort Walk Club's Annual Volksmarch. Please volunteer for a shift. Three hour shifts begin at 6:30a.m. and we finish up around 2:30p.m. 6:30 - 9:30; 9:00 - Noon; and, 11:30 - 2:30 The weather is usually very pleasant and the scenery is beautiful, plus before or after your service shift you can participate in the walk! A few hours of fun and friends - KCPP greatly appreciates your help. Please let us know if you will help Saturday, June 7 at JSPP. kristie@kendallcountyparks.org.

Weekend Weed Warriors (VSH)

Sat, June 7, 8AM – 10AM

Phil Hardberger Park East, Salado classroom, 13203 Blanco Road, San Antonio, TX

Work with PHP naturalists the first Saturday of each month to battle weeds and other invasive species in the park. For information, call 210-207-3106 or 210-207-3280.

. Growing Up Wild-Pre-K - Night Owls (VSH)

Wed, June 11, 9:30AM – 12:00PM

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

Volunteers needed. Contact: Susan.Campbell@sanantonio.gov or call 210-207-3106.

Riverwalk Garden Workday (VSH)

Fri, June 13, 9AM – 1PM

Monthly on the second Friday

google.com/maps/@29.4182131,-98.4933626,18z

Weather permitting, volunteers are needed to cut, trim, and plant at the San Antonio River Walk 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 River Walk. Contact Evelyn Penrod at epenrod@gvtc.com or 830-438-2290 for parking and specific information about this month's work day. Sponsored by Alamo Area Master Naturalists Class 2. Approved for VSH.

Texas Native Trails Guided Tour (AT)

Fri, June 13, 10AM – 11AM

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

East Texas Piney Woods. Contact person: Ron Tullius at rvtullius@sbcglobal.net or 210-739-2566.

Lessons from the Headwaters (AT)

Sat, June 14, 8AM – 10AM

29°28'05.9"N 98°27'56.5"W

This activity is a two-hour educational walking tour of the Headwaters Sanctuary. Wear your hiking boots. Attendees will learn about restoration ecology, invasive plants, hydrology, archaeology, and the history of the headwaters of the San Antonio River, especially in the 53-acre Headwaters Sanctuary. The Headwaters Executive Director will be the instructor. VSH is already approved for Headwaters Sanctuary; this activity is AT. Fee \$7.00, cash or check only, payable in advance or on arrival. Please register in advance with Howard S. Homan, howard.homan@gmail.com, 1218 Olympic Club, San Antonio, TX 78260, 210-557-0030.

June Training and Volunteer Events

Native Landscape Certification Program: Level 1 - Introduction to Native Landscapes (AT)

Sat, June 14, 9:00AM – 4:30PM

San Antonio River Authority, 100 E. Guenther Street, San Antonio, TX

Learn the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes. Each class will include a classroom session and a 2-hour outdoor walk. Registration fee for each class is \$35. For information contact Joan Miller at millersmyle@earthlink.net. Volunteers are needed to lead plant walks for both Level 1 and Level 2.

Plant Propagation (AT)

Sat, June 14, 9AM – 11AM

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

Learn the techniques our horticulturists and volunteers use to propagate plants in the Garden. Participants will make their own cuttings to take home and have the opportunity to explore the greenhouse and purchase plants expertly cultivated by the San Antonio Botanical Society Plant Sale Volunteers (exact cash or check only). Most plants are \$8/gallon. Limit 16 participants. Fee: \$20. For information or to register, contact 210-207-3270 or programregistrar@sabot.org.

Nature Camp (VSH)

Tue, June 17, 8AM – 12PM

Daily, until Jun 20, 2014

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

Volunteers needed. Help with photography, kids activities and crafts and hike along the Medina River. Contact Susan.Campbell@sanantonio.gov or call 210-207-3106.

Efficient Irrigation (AT)

Sat, June 21, 9AM – 11AM

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

Is your landscape looking a little dry? Are you wanting to make changes to your irrigation system? Come join Master Gardener Laura Rogers and learn about the most efficient and robust irrigation systems for your WaterSaver Garden. Fee: \$10 (\$9 members). For information or to register, please contact 210-207-3270 or programregistrar@sabot.org.

Native Landscape Certification Program: Level 2 - Introduction to Native Landscapes (AT)

Saturday, June 21, 2014, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Phil Hardberger Park-West, Urban Ecology Center, 8400 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX

Participants must complete Level 1 before attending Level 2. Participants who have completed a class will be registered with the Native Plant Society of Texas. Each class will include a classroom session and a 2-hour outdoor walk. Registration fee for each class is \$35. For information contact Joan Miller at millersmyle@earthlink.net. Volunteers needed to lead plant walks for both Level 1 and 2.

Oak Loop Seasonal Walk - Nature Photography (AT - VSH if assisting)

Sat, June 28, 8:00AM – 10:15AM

Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center, 8400 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX

This Oak Loop walk will focus on photographing nature and be led by Donald Ewers. Donald retired from teaching at the U. S. Army Academy of Health Sciences (now AMEDD School) and the UIW where he taught in the Art and Communication Arts Dept. with a specialty in photography. He currently has several books in various stages of production. The closest to publication is *The Song of the Cactus Flower: Images from a Land of Many Thorns*. Don also is the author of *While On A Walk*, photographs with an occasional philosophical reflection that can be found at whileonawalk.blogspot.com. Bring your cameras! The purposes of this walk are appreciating the beauty of the natural areas along the Oak Loop Trail, observing how nature changes through the seasons, and documenting your perceptions with photography. Call the PHP Conservancy office for more information: 210-226-8339.

Ultimate Recycling: Home Composting & Drip Irrigation (AT)

Sat, June 28, 9AM – 11AM

Phil Hardberger Park West (Urban Ecology Center courtyard), 8400 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX

Presenters TBA. Who are the ultimate recyclers? What's living in compost? Take a close look at some of the most important creatures on earth and how we need to cultivate them. Kid-friendly activity. Contact Denise Gross at 210-226-8339, cell 210-737-4952, or email dgross@philhardbergerpark.org.

Volunteer Progress at Headwaters

Tom and Howard love feeding the monster -- and wearing their nifty helmets, which help keep them safe. Ursula and Sara Jo gather "food" for the monster -- while enjoying the beauty of the woods.



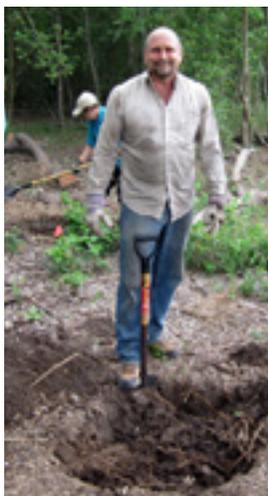
Has anyone noticed the preponderance of strong women among our regular volunteers? We have a girl power thing going on, without our even trying. It's awesome, and it's not exclusive. Men are welcome, too.



Last Friday afternoon = hole digging and planting new trees near the Olmos Dam.



Here's Cammy wielding the pickaxe. Kim and Melinda chat and dig, chat and dig this hole.



Tom found a tangle of roots from an old invasive tree. Helen cuts away the bucket while Melinda wrestles the tree.

We planted 6.5 trees: Post Oak, Monterrey Oak, Anaqua (x2), Mexican Buckeye, Mexican Olive....and Live Oak (dug, not finished, yet). All are native, though some are not quite native to the Headwaters -- e.g., Post Oak and Monterrey Oak. However, these are far more resistant to oak wilt than our local native oaks. We're learning that oak wilt is a problem heading our way, so we're hedging our bets for the future.



Thanks so much to all our volunteers for helping to restore this special place!

EPA Releases EnviroAtlas Ecosystem Mapping Tool

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released EnviroAtlas, a web-based interactive tool that integrates over 300 separate data layers, helps decision makers understand the implications of planning and policy decisions on our fragile ecosystems and the communities who depend on goods and services from these ecosystems. EnviroAtlas is designed for people from all levels of government, professionals, researchers, educators, non-governmental organizations, and anyone interested in considering the benefits or impacts of a decision, such as siting a new road or city park.

“Our health and well-being, our economy and our security depend upon healthy ecosystems,” says Bob Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator of EPA, “By providing EnviroAtlas, which contains a wealth of information for the United States, EPA is helping to ensure that anyone making decisions that may impact ecosystems will have the best available knowledge to build prosperous communities while conserving our natural resources.”

EnviroAtlas can help people learn about ecosystems, and how they provide us with benefits such as clean air and water; opportunities for recreation; and protection from severe weather, such as hurricanes and floods. EnviroAtlas also highlights how ecosystems provide habitats for plants, fish, and wildlife as well as the materials people need to produce food, clothing, shelter, and pharmaceuticals, and provides maps on all of these topics.

EnviroAtlas integrates geospatial data from a variety of sources to allow users to visualize and analyze how decisions impact ecosystems and their ability to provide goods and services. Communities are often faced with difficult decisions, such as trade-offs between transportation, residential or commercial development and maintaining local wetlands, urban greenspaces, or urban forests. EnviroAtlas helps communities better understand the potential benefits and drawbacks of their decisions by providing data, maps, information and tools to analyze relationships between nature, health and well-being, and the economy.

EnviroAtlas combines hundreds of data layers developed through collaboration between EPA; US Geological Survey; US Forest Service; other federal, state, and non-profit organizations; and several universities. Using powerful web application tools, it lets users generate customized maps and images that show the condition of their local community’s air, water, and landscape; as well as population density and other demographic data. Users can investigate land cover patterns, see how ecosystem services reduce pollution, and view closer to true scale data to compare them across selected communities.

EnviroAtlas is available to anybody with access to a computer and an internet connection. No special software is needed. It is currently not optimized for smartphone or tablet use, but a mobile-friendly version is planned for the future.

Using tools like EnviroAtlas to make informed decisions will help ensure that people can continue to enjoy economic, social, and environmental benefits of ecosystems now and in the future.

<http://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/>

Arundo Arrested! (News extra from the Balcones Satellite)

On February 18, we began our eradication of a very dense stand of giant reed (*Arundo donax*) along the Leon Creek Greenway. Nine sessions, twenty volunteers, and 140 plus volunteer hours later we successfully eradicated a 1/3 acre patch of *Arundo donax* with an estimated 10,350 individual stalks! And this does not include the continued weekly monitoring and spraying of new growth. The week after our 2" rain we clipped and sprayed more than 600 new shoots!

Ten of the nineteen volunteers were Balcones Satellite Citizen Scientists, including Lonnie Shockley, Lisa Franz, James Griffin (worker-photographer), Kermit Wegner, Richard Adams, Randy Baker, Cheryl Hamilton, Alan Montemayor, Karen Treu, and Susan Oualline. Lisa Franz attended every single *Arundo* eradication session, contributing a total of 18 volunteer hours!



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Return Service Requested