

Guadalupe Chapter

Texas Master Naturalist

<https://txmn.org/guadalupe/>



November 2022

Vol. 9, Issue 11

Mission. *To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.*

November Guadalupe Master Naturalists Monthly Program and Meeting

Date: Monday, November 28, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM Program;

8:00 PM Business Meeting

Location: AgriLife Extension Bldg., 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin

Program: Don Kirchoff will speak about **prairie restoration**. Don and his family have been working to restore their family farm in Wilson County to Blackland prairie and its natural communities. After many decades of row crop farming and cattle ranching, the family is carrying out their plan to create a financially self-sustaining prairie in honor of their parents' conservation ethic.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NATURE EDUCATION

Discover Early Texans

Date: Saturday, November 12, 2022

Time: staggered start times 9:00 – 12:00 AM

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, Schertz

Leader:

Volunteers:

We welcome more volunteers. **Please arrive at 8:30 A.M.**

Contact: Rebeca Leiningner rsleiningner@gmail.com to volunteer



Date: Monday, November 14, 2022

Time: staggered start times 2:30 – 5:00 PM

Location: Seguin Public Library, 313 W. Nolte

Leader:

Volunteers:

Please arrive at 2:30 P.M.

Contact: Jennifer Ehlers ehlers@gvec.net to volunteer

Description: Participants will follow a typical day in the life of a Tonkawa child with food gathering, food preparation, tool-making and creating ceremonial objects.

[Signup Genius](#) will be sent by Rebeca.

Pollinator Garden

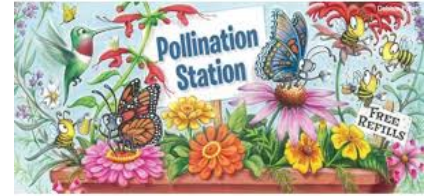
Date: Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Park West garden by splash pool

Description: If light-duty is your thing, come join Master Naturalists and NPSOT volunteers at the Park West Pollinator Garden for butterfly-counting and a little weeding every Wednesday

Contact: Clara Mae Marcotte at rcm.marcotte@gmail.com or Liz Romero at fleurromero@gmail.com for details about current happenings at the Pollinator Garden.



Park West Happenings

Date: Thursdays, November 3, 10, 17, 2022

Time: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Location: Meet at the Park West Parking Lot/Splash Pad, 601 N. Vaughan Ave. Seguin

Wear: Long sleeves, long pants, hat, closed-toe shoes and work gloves.

Bring: Drinking water; BYO Tools - lopping shears, small saws, pruners.

Why: When bamboo, ligustrum and other invasive plants dominate the forest, Texas oaks, pecans and cedar elms are starved by the alien plants. If nothing is done to remove the foreign invaders, our native forest with all its botanical diversity, birds, wildlife and botanical beauty will be lost.

Cooler weather is here so we will again tackle invasive plants in the Park West forest area on Thursday, Nov. 3 and every Thursday morning from November to May, excepting holidays. We lop, we saw, we haul; all with the consent and cooperation with the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Dept. We also label native plants that will improve the forest health of Park West.

Our first workday of the season will be a special one. We will do a walk-through of our past work and review our safety protocols.

Join the Park West Citizen Science team!

Contact: For information, contact either co-chair; John Barrington (830-237-3544 or freedom516@yahoo.com) or Nancy Masterson (830-305-9104 or nsethermasterson@gmail.com)

Walk With a Naturalist at Park West

Dates: Tuesdays, November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Park West Splash Pad, 601 N. Vaughan Ave. Seguin

Description: Join one of the Master Naturalist guides on a walk through Park West as Fall arrives in Guadalupe County. Bring along a friend that might have an interest in learning more about the Master Naturalist program and the less traveled parts of Park West.

Guides: November 1 – Jim Dyess

November 8 – John Barrington

November 15 – Chris Dyess

November 22 – John Barrington

November 29 – Jennifer Ehlers

Contact: Jim Dyess jnd16123@gmail.com 713/206-6218

Bracken Cave Preserve Legacy Tree Surveys

Dates: November 3, 12, 16, 29, 2022

Time: 9:00 – 11:30 AM

Location: Bracken Preserve, 26101 FM3009, San Antonio, TX

Description: Interested in walking in the woods to find, measure, and gps locate heritage trees? Training is on the job. This opportunity requires a sense of adventure and the ability to walk on rocky, uneven ground, through tall grass, and through thick brush because we are off-trail most of the time.

Monthly Bracken BioBlitz

Date: Saturday, November 19

Time: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Contact for Information:

Heidi Forgione at heidiforgione@gmail.com to sign up or for more information

Palmetto Aquatics Classes

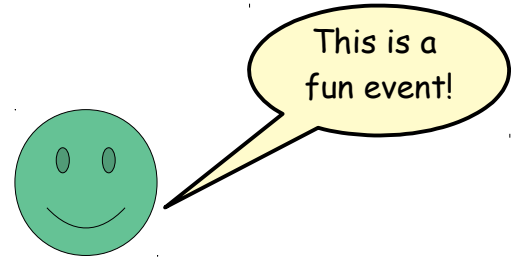
Dates: Tuesday, November 15 – San Marcos High School

Thursday, November 17 – Lockhart High School

Time: 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

Location: Palmetto State Park

Description: The Education Team at GBRA is working with two area high schools and offering field trips the third week of November at Palmetto State Park. These trips are funded by TPWD – we have a COOP grant that pays for buses, food, etc. The students are Aquatic Science students, and are typically juniors. We anticipate between 80-100 students a day. Our experience tells us to expect the lower number.....



We will be rotating them through four stations, see below.

Each group will be approximately 20 students.

- 1] Water Quality/ Macroinvertebrates
- 2] Fishing
- 3] Kayaking
- 4] Geocaching/Birding

What we really need assistance with is the fourth station. We are combining two activities: Students will be in pairs and will have a GPS unit with 10 waypoints. They will walk through mostly the Palmetto Trail, looking for geocaches. They will also have binoculars and will have the Merlin Bird ID on their phone. Our idea is that as they are looking for the waypoints along the trail, they will listen for birds and see how many birds they can ID. We will have a prize for the students that collect the most bird calls. Liz Gutierrez, GBRA Education will be the lead at the station. She will explain the activity and will be out on the trail as well. There will also be at least one teacher accompanying each group. We've also asked for a Parks person or Parks volunteer to monitor students on the trail too

BBQ lunch will be provided: (Sausage wraps, beans, potato salad).

Contact: Cinde Thomas-Jimenez at cthomas-jimenez@gbra.org if you have any questions or would like to help out

Walk With a Naturalist at Crescent Bend

Date: Sunday, November 27, 2022

Time:

Description: Come experience this fun adventure, discovering the wealth of nature and much more! Master Naturalists will lead a one-mile hike through Crescent Bend, sharing information about the park and its natural environment.

Contact: Carolyn Wolfer, Crescent Bend coordinator, wolfercdat@mac.com

M. O. Neasloney Wildlife Management Area

Dates: Thursdays

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: 20700 SH 80 North, Gonzales, TX 78629 [halfway between Seguin and Gonzales]

Description: Craig Wagner and Nick Franzen invite Chapter members to join them at Neasloney WMA every Thursday. There are many, many jobs to be done to help our TPWD biologist Trent Teinert. If you are interested, **please contact Craig** at craigwagner31@aol.com or call Craig at 847-226-4375 for information. If not familiar with Neasloney, it is 100 acres located in Gonzales County, south of Luling, midway between Luling and Gonzales. The WMA is used primarily for wildlife ecology field tours by public school groups. Outdoor recreational opportunities include wildlife viewing, hiking and an interpretive nature trail.

Contact: Nick Franzen, nhfranz204@gmail.com

Craig Wagner, craigwagner31@aol.com or 847-226-4375

Trent Teinert, trent.teinert@tpwd.texas.gov or (830) 424-3407

Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary



Dates/Times: Vary

Description: Assist with filling feeders, clearing brush, building owl boxes, general maintenance, golf cart repairs/maintenance

Location: Warbler Woods, 19349 Old Wiederstein Rd, Cibolo, TX

Contact: Sandi Wheeler at wheels5683@gmail.com for current opportunities

Palmetto Bird Walk

Date: Saturday, November 26, 2022

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Meet at the Refectory parking lot; Day Pass required

Description: Join skilled birder and Guadalupe Master Naturalist Elaine Cowley as she leads the birding hike at Palmetto.

Note: Day-pass required. Check-in at Headquarters.

Palmetto Centennial Plan – 100 Years/100 Species Challenge

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023

Time: TBD

Location: Palmetto State Park

Description: This is an invitation to join us here at the park to lead programs and assist park guest IDing plants and wildlife in the park.

This will be fun; more information to come as the date nears.

Contact: Jason E. True, Assistant Park Superintendent, Palmetto State Park (830) 203-8922
Samantha Gonzales, Park Interpreter (830) 672-3266, samantha.gonzalez@tpwd.texas.gov



Fisher Park Nature Education Center

Dates: Vary; contact Center supervisor

Time: Vary; activities require 2-3 hour commitment

Location: Fisher Park Nature Education Center, 1946 Monarch Way, New Braunfels, TX

Description: Volunteers are needed to assist with various activities such as archery, birdwatching, fishing, gardening, kayaking and night hikes. They also host children's birthday parties and school group field trips.

Contact: Call 830-221-4378 for information or Bruce Bebow

ADVANCED TRAINING

TMN Tuesdays

Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Description: November program information not yet available. Check website.

Website for information: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>

Top 20 Plants to attract Birds to your Landscape **Guadalupe County Chapter, Native Plant Society**

Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Time: Social – 6:30; Program – 7:00

Description: Presented by Judit Green, TPWD Urban Biologist



Learn the top 20 most valuable native plants that will draw birds to your yard.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 1121 E. Walnut Street, Seguin, Texas
Parking in rear, enter from N. Moss Street.



Lindheimer Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Program



Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm

What: History & Exploration of the Longest Cave in Texas – Honey Creek Cave

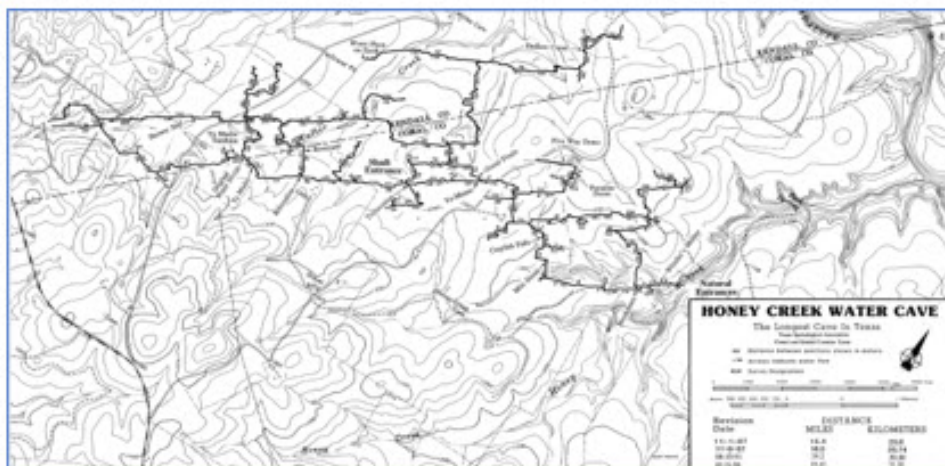
Who: Michael Cicherski, Texas Cave Management Association

Where: In person: Tye Preston Memorial Library

Online: <https://tcmn.org/lindheimer/chapter-info/next-meeting/>



Join us to learn about Honey Creek Cave – the longest known cave in Texas, stretching more than 20 miles. Honey Creek is a tributary of the Guadalupe River. (Texas Speleological Survey.org)



Michael Cicherski has been caving regularly since the late 80's. He is a Fellow of the National Speleological Society and a recipient of the National Speleological Society Certificate of Merit. Michael has participated in the Honey Creek Cave, Powell's Cave, and other projects here in Texas, as well as projects in Montana, Kentucky and in Mexico. Michael continues to be an active caver, and is the Co-Project Director in two on-going efforts in the Texas Hill Country.

Michael is currently a Board Director of TCMA and has previously held positions of leadership in the TSA, TCMA and in The 15th International Congress of Speleology.

Member Contributions

COWPEN DAISIES

by David Benbow

Our Cowpen Daisies are blooming profusely this fall and are covered with bees, butterflies and other pollinators.



The so-called Cowpen Daisy (*Verbisina endelioides*), also called Golden Crownbeard, is a member of the Asteraceae family. It is a Texas native, but due to its weedy appearance, probably does not get the attention it deserves from gardeners or Master Naturalists.

It is considered to be an annual. It readily reseeds itself every year. It loves poor, disturbed soil, which is probably how it picked up its nickname.

It is a survivor, both of summer heat, drought and browsing. I have several patches of them growing in my lot, and I used to mow them down with the shredder before I realized their value as an attractor of pollinators. The stalk and leaves are unattractive and grow thickly in bunches, and when mown they have an unpleasant, weedy smell. Browsers avoid them because they are toxic, even to goats. We have several deer that live around here and I never see any of them nibbling on the Cowpen Daisies.



They do possess a big positive, however, and that is a profusion of striking yellow flowers, which begin to show in early summer and continue until the first frost. It is in the fall when these plants really begin to manifest their value, which is providing a wealth of blooms when most other flowering plants are done for the year. Last week, we had a pretty day, mildly warm and still and I

spotted at least 50 butterflies of all varieties, including a couple of Monarchs, all enjoying the abundant nectar of the yellow blooms. Among these were a number of bees, including Bumble Bees and honey bees, and the ever present wood borers. And this was a small patch of flowers.

When the blooms mature, they drop their petals and a rather ugly brown head full of seeds and debris takes its place. Most plants will have a combination of yellow flowers and brown dead heads. (One reason why they are not an especially attractive plant for the garden.) When the seeds mature, they provide food for many birds, including quail, doves and turkeys.

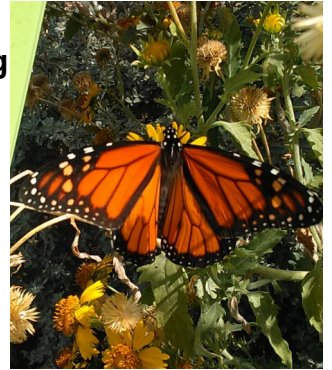
On average, they grow 2 to 3 feet in height. They prefer full sun, but will perform in partial shade. They appreciate water, but will survive long periods of dry weather. While they may not be a good fit for a small city lot, if you have an acre or more, I would suggest finding a secluded spot to disturb some soil and throw down a few seeds. They can be a bit invasive, but I have not found them to be a problem. The more land you have, the more you can plant, of course. Your local pollinators will appreciate it, especially in October and November. And, they will reseed and come back every spring.

I try to collect some seeds every fall. If anybody wants seed, let me know. The harvest is in full motion right now.

Monarch Monitoring Citizen Science Project

By Liz Romero

What is the Monarch Larval Monitoring Project? The **Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP)** involves volunteers from across North America and New Zealand in monarch research. Guadalupe Master Naturalists have been actively participating in this project since 2016. It (the project) was developed in 1997 by researchers at the University of Minnesota to collect long-term data on larval monarch populations and milkweed habitat. The project focuses on monarch distribution and abundance during the breeding season.



Female Monarch on a
Cow Pen Daisy

As volunteers, our contributions will aid in conserving monarchs and their threatened migratory phenomenon, and advance our understanding of butterfly ecology in general. Learn more about broader monarch conservation efforts on the [Monarch Joint Venture website](#).

Texas is part of the primary migratory pathway for Monarchs as they migrate to Mexico for the winter. They need to rest and refuel as they make their way South. In order to participate in the project, we had to complete the required training, locate sites with populations of milkweed, secure permission to visit and monitor the sites and establish a schedule to monitor. Our training was completed on March of 2016 at Guadalupe River State Park and Neasloney Wildlife Management Area. The original trainees were Clara Mae Marcotte, Craig Wagner, Donna Bratcher, John Masterson, Nancy Masterson, Betty Hughes, Tom Hardaway, Chris Dyess and me.

Chris Dyess initially registered our first sites: Neasloney Wildlife Management Area (near Gonzales) and Mosaic Community Church (on West Court Street in Seguin). We started monitoring Mosaic on Sept. 29, 2016 and ended May 19, 2017 due to too much mowing. We started monitoring Neasloney on April 15th, 2016 and ended on Oct. 28, also due to too much mowing.

Refusing to be defeated by lawnmowers, we located a site on FM 1117 adjacent to Donna Bratcher's property. We monitored from April 28, 2018 until June 1, 2018. No mowers, but no Monarchs, either!

In 2017, Nancy Masterson led an effort to install a Water Wise and Pollinator Garden at Park West. The garden was installed with drip irrigation, in a dedicated area without risk of mowing. Mostly native plants were selected to appeal to pollinators. Multiple milkweed species were planted. My first record of monitoring is Oct. 27th of that year, and my most recent monitoring date is Oct. 27, 2022! If you think you would enjoy this project, please visit the Monarch Joint Venture website for online training, or search for a Master Naturalist Chapter training. We will begin monitoring again in March or April '23 (depending on the weather) and we'd love to have you join us. In addition to MLMP, we do the garden maintenance, with help from Master Gardeners and Guadalupe Native Plant Society: extra hands and tools are always welcome! If you have questions, please contact me: fleurromero@gmail.com.

CHAPTER NEWS



On December 5, Guadalupe Master Naturalist members and their guests will gather to celebrate the fun and accomplishments we have achieved in 2022. Bruce Bebow will be creating a slide show with pictures of our various Chapter activities during 2022. How can you help make the evening more festive? Please send photos you have taken at GMN events throughout the year to Bruce Bebow. **Please text to 210-912-3910.**

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net, by Friday, November 25 for the December 2022 issue

Officers:

President – Mark de Kiewiet	mark.dekiewiet@att.net
Vice-president – John Barrington	freedom516@yahoo.com
Secretary – Chris Dyess	ced16123@gmail.com
Treasurer – Craig Sagebiel	prcraigsagebiel@yahoo.com

Committee Chairmen:

Program – Chris Dyess	ced16123@gmail.com
Training Class – Pam Sagebiel – Seguin class	pjsagebiel@yahoo.com
Michelle Darnell - Schertz class	mdarnelltex@gmail.com
Nature Education – Jennifer Ehlers - Seguin	ehlers@gvec.net
Rebeca Leininger - Schertz	rsleininger@gmail.com
Citizen Science – Tom Hardaway	tehardaway@yahoo.com
Advanced Training – Cinde Thomas-Jimenez	cindetjimenez@gmail.com
Communications – Bruce Bebow	bbebow@gmail.com
Newsletter – Marilyn Andeson	MarilynA@access4less.net
Membership – Michelle Darnell	mdarnelltex@gmail.com
Fund Raising – Craig Sagebiel	prcraigsagebiel@yahoo.com
Hospitality – Mary Styblo	drstyblo@hotmail.com

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