



***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.*



Holiday Social

Monday, December 5

6:00 – 9:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

600 Center St, Marion

Our Chapter will provide meat, vegetarian entree and tea/water.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. A small note card with ingredients is recommended for buffet-style service. It would be helpful to bring a serving utensil for your dish, if appropriate, and a take home container for leftovers!

We will provide plates, serving ware and napkins--but....**GO GREEN** and bring your own reusable place settings and drinkware.

Please RSVP to Mark de Kiewiet at mark.dekiewiet@att.net



No alcoholic beverages
allowed at St. John's

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Pollinator Garden

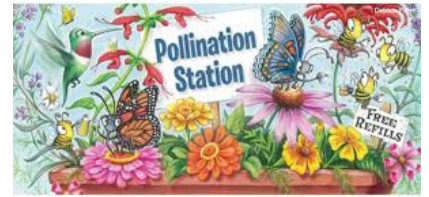
Date: Wednesdays, December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2022

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: Liz Romero at fleurromero@gmail.com for details about current happenings at the Pollinator Garden.



Park West Happenings

Date: Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, 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: We will try to "finish up" the 13 Oaks section before we let it rest and re-grow some understory for a while. Before Thanksgiving, we cleaned up, broke down and scattered downed wood in the first area, but much more remains to be done.

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, December 6, 13, 20, 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:

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



Walk With a Naturalist at Crescent Bend

Date: December Break - no walks in Crescent Bend this month

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 it's 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

Kirchoff Prairie Restoration Workday

Date: Saturday, December 17, 2022

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Kirchoff Family Farm, 1444 County Road 210, Floresville, TX

Description: Work and learn at the ongoing prairie restoration project at the Kirchoff Family Farm. Come when you can, leave when you're ready. Tools and LUNCH are provided by the Kirchoffs.

Contact: Don Kirchoff, 713-562-7681

donkirchoff@earthlink.com



Thank You New Program Chairs

Laura Griffith and Joy Marks will serve as our new program coordinators for 2023. You can make their task easier if you suggest programs you would like to hear.

Have a good idea or if you heard a great speaker of interest to Master Naturalists?

Send names and contact information to Laura and Joy.

Laura Griffith ljgriffith528@gmail.com

Joy Marks jemarks70@gmail.com

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

Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust Presents



Date: December 9 & 10, 2022 - 9:00am-3:00pm

(Arrival times are flexible)

Location: Plum Creek Wetland Preserve, Lockhart, TX

3105 N U.S. Hwy 183, Lockhart, TX 78644

Description: Our long-term goal is to plant thousands of trees, restoring the habitat to its natural condition.

The event will include:

- 🕒 Brief tour of the preserve
- 🕒 Training for proper tree planting
- 🕒 Intro to Preserve's Master Plan
- 🕒 Planting at least 700 seedlings native to the Blackland Prairie
- 🕒 Partnering organization information booths
- 🕒 Fun for the whole family

** Wear durable boots, pants and hat, bring water bottle, facemask, sunscreen & bug spray ** Lunch, tools, gloves, water, hand sanitizer, limited sunscreen and bug spray will be provided

Questions can be sent to: Stephen Risinger, Conservation & Stewardship Manager
stephen@gbrtx.org 830.632.2292

2023 Committees – Guadalupe Chapter

1. Monthly Program – Find speakers of interest to Master Naturalists as well as the public for Chapter meetings. May also arrange occasional field trips.

Chairs: Laura Griffith and Joy Marks

2. Training Course – Develop the curriculum; find lecturers and venues; create class schedules; host class sessions.

Chair: Michelle Darnell; Seguin Team: John Barrington, Tom Hardaway, Marilyn Anderson

3. Nature Education – Plan and carry out educational and outreach activities that fall under Training and Educating Other (TR), and Public Outreach (PO). Create and maintain original curriculum, kits, and exhibits. Educate others using curriculum developed by other entities. Recruit and train members to carry out these activities.

Chair: Jennifer Ehlers **Schertz Chair Needed**

4. Citizen Science – Plans/conducts activities that qualify for Natural Resource Management (RM), Nature/Public Access (NPA), Field Research (FR) or Technical Guidance (TG). Examples include removing invasive plants, participating in biological surveys, building and maintaining trails, and creating and maintaining wildscapes and interpretive areas.

Chair: Tom Hardaway.

5. Advanced Training – Identify and approve training programs and provide information to the Communications Committee for dissemination to members.

Chair: Jim Dyess

6. Communications - External publicity including press releases and program announcements. Internal communications to include newsletter, calendar, webpage, Facebook, Flickr, Instagram, and email to members. Use email address gmncommunications@guadmn.org to send information for Facebook postings, calendar and website.

Chair: Bruce Bebow

7. Membership – All functions relating to VMS; order certification and milestone pins; maintain chapter roster.

Chair: Michelle Darnell

8. Fundraising – Plan and oversee fundraising events; grant writing.












Chair: Currently inactive

9. Hospitality – Plan and oversee social events at monthly programs, chapter hosted events, and the end of the year social.

Chair: **Chairperson Needed**

ADVANCED TRAINING

Have family and/or friends visiting over the holidays? Palmetto is offering many fun activities and you can get the group out of the house and into nature!

December 2022 Public Programs At Palmetto SP				
Hikes/Walks	Art in the Park	Ranger Talks	Junior Ranger	Outdoor Skills
 1 - 1.5 hrs Dress for the weather. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water.	 1 hour Nature inspired art program, fun for all ages!	 1 hour Hands-on presentation about nature or history.	 1 - 2 hrs Designed for kids 12 and under, all ages welcome.	 1 - 2 hrs Learn a new skill or outdoor activity.
Date:	Time:	Location:	Program:	
Sat. Dec. 3rd	9:00AM	Meet in front of CCC Group Pavilion		Birding Stroll: Curious about what birds call Palmetto home? Binoculars are provided if needed!
	2:30PM	Meet in front of Artesian Well		Wonderful Watercolors: Find the inspiration in nature and paint your surroundings in watercolor!
Sat. Dec. 10th	10:00AM	Meet in front Artesian Well		Christmas Crafts: Come celebrate the holiday season by making nature inspired cards and ornaments.
	2:30PM	Meet at Camp Site 26		Outgoing Outdoors 101: Learn what it means to be a better steward for the outdoors by learning the Leave No Trace Principles.
Park will be CLOSED to all day use visitors and campers Friday, Dec. 16th 12:00pm - Monday, Dec. 19th 8:00am				
Sat. Dec. 31st	9:00AM	Meet in front of CCC Group Pavilion		Birding Stroll: Curious about what birds call Palmetto home? Binoculars are provided if needed!
	2:30PM	Meet at Camp Site 26		Outgoing Outdoors 101: Let us close out the year by learning about camp fire safety and warm ourselves up by a fire with some tasty treats.

TMN Tuesdays

Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Description: Join us on December 13 at 12pm for a TMNTuesday webinar with Kenneth Taylor. Dr. Taylor is a Professor of the Practice at the Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service and serves as the Director of Outreach and Professional Development within their Center for Nonprofits & Philanthropy.

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

TRAINING CLASS



Front Row L to R: Laura Griffith, Michelle Darnell, Sarah Jones, Steffinie Blankenship, Niki Lake, Bruce Bebow

Back Row L to R: Renee Harvey, Patty Garcia, Joy Lawson, Jacob Jarutowicz, Ulrike Judkins, Lisa Griego-Lyon, Melissa Moon, Susan Hanks, Mary Habib

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

Our Chapter welcomes our new members and we look forward to serving and learning with them in the coming year. Seventeen completed the course with seven having all class requirements complete and two also earning their initial certification.

CHAPTER BUSINESS



A new Memorial Policy for deceased Master Naturalists was approved by the GMN board and chapter members in November 2022. Ideas were researched and recommended by members Nancy Masterson, Liz Romero, Sandi Wheeler and Kathy Pearson. They collected suggestions from 18 organizations, other chapters and from our own members. Three active Master Naturalists have died since our chapter was formed; Joel Tanner certified in 2018 and died in 2019. Betty Hughes, certified in 2014 and died in 2019 and David Pearson, certified in 2020 and passed away in 2021.

The procedures will honor the memory of naturalists who were current members of our Guadalupe chapter at year of their death and were once certified by our Guadalupe chapter. The memorial efforts will include the late member's family, chapter members, members-in-training and our state office of Texas Master Naturalists.

The Memorial Policy has three main areas; announcements, scholarships, and donations. The board vice-president is charged with overseeing the matter.

To inform our members and state organization, the Board will send a sympathy card to the family, hold a Moment of Silence at next chapter meeting, publish news of the death with a photo, obituary and, if timely, information on upcoming services in our chapter newsletter and send to our state office. The website manager will add a In Memorial tab to our site to post names and photos. The chapter will also send news of the death to the state office with a photo, Chapter name and area of interest for the memorial slide show at each fall's annual conference.

The Treasurer will create a Memorial Fund in the chapter budget and allocate \$150 per year in it. Each memorial will include a \$100 donation into the TMN Endowment Fund. We will also encourage individual donations into the TMN Endowment. See <https://masternaturalistendowment.org> to make a donation. Follow the website sample on the Donate Now link. The Texas A&M Foundation manages the fund, which began in 2018. The fund recently topped \$100,000.

The Class Committee will select a deserving member-in-training to receive a partial scholarship (\$50) in the next class for each member who passed. We will create a In Memory of bookplate for their text book.

In 2023, the chapter will sponsor a student's textbook (\$50) and donate \$100 to the TMN Endowed Fund in Memory of Joel Tanner. In 2024, the chapter will sponsor a student's textbook and donate to the TMN Endowed Fund in Memory of Betty Hughes. In 2025, sponsor a student's textbook and donate to the TMN Endowed Fund in Memory of David Pearson.

A special Thank You to committee members Nancy Masterson, Liz Romero, Sandi Wheeler and Kathy Pearson for their time and effort developing the new policy.

Look who's AMAZING, we are!!!

This is where we spent most of our time volunteering..

Citizen Science 1649 hours

Bracken Cave 47 hours
Chapter Approved 712 hours
iNaturalist 362 hours
TEXAS Stream Team 46 hours
Neasloney Wildlife Area 110 hours
Park West 372 hours

Education Committee 1231 hours

Bracken Cave 65 hours
Indirect Teaching (Events) 197 hours
Direct Teaching 298 hours
Palmetto State Park 82 hours
Discovery Series 242 hours
Seguin Outdoor Learning Center 347 hours

Chapter Business 902.5 hours

Chapter Meetings 141.5 hours
Board/Committee Work 159.5 hours
President Duties 5 hours
Vice President Duties
Treasurer 16.5
Secretary 27.5
Hours Management 48
Communications 118.5
Social Media/website 39.5
Training class 291
Photographer
Programs Management 36

CONGRATULATIONS

Recertifications for December

Chris Castoro, Nick Frazen, Sharon Frels and Kathy Pearson

Initial Certification for December

Joy Marks

Milestone award for Tom Hardaway for 1000 hours

Members who Recertified in 2022

Sandi Wheeler
Adrienne Bebow
Bruce Bebow
Elaine Cowley
Chris Dyess
Craig Wagner
Jennifer Ehlers
John Barrington
Carloyn Wolfer
Michelle Darnell
Seth Faught
Craig Sagebiel
Mark de Kiewiet
David Tripp
Chris Castoro

Bobby Cowley
Rebeca Leininger
Ken Harvey
Laura Griffith
Gayle Temple
David Benbow
Marilyn Anderson
Jim Dyess
Debbie Balderez
Pamela Turner
Janet Magee
Pam Sagebiel
Sharon Frels
Nick Frazen
Kathy Pearson

Members who Received their Initial Certification in 2022

Justice Brown, Annette Kowalchik, Viviane Maguire, Alejandro Montero,
Deborah Dedrick, Renee Harvey, Niki Lake, Joy Marks

Milestone Awards



250 HOURS Seth Faught, Rebeca Leininger, John Barrington, Bobby Cowley,
Gayle Temple

500 HOURS Craig Sagebiel, Jennifer Ehlers, David Tripp, Elaine Cowley

1000 HOURS Nancy Masterson, Tom Hardaway

TMN Program 25th Anniversary!



- To celebrate our upcoming 25th Anniversary next year, we are starting a storytelling project to highlight our wonderful TMN members and their conservation work across the state.
- Questions examples:
 - What made you want to become a TMN member?
 - Have a favorite TMN in-the-field memory?
 - What has been your most meaningful project, community outreach, or conservation event?
- We'd love to hear your stories and share them!
- **Launching January 2023!**

The font is very small but please attempt to read about this new project from the state office for 2023.

TMN Program 25th Anniversary!



- Start thinking now:
 - Your chapters stories
 - Giants/Leaders in your chapter
 - Projects you think we should highlight
 - Unique contributions to the TMN story from your chapter!
- Where we'll need your help:
 - Sharing the call for stories with your members!
 - Resharing and posting our 25th anniversary stories on your channels.
 - Posting in your newsletters, social media and in meetings.
 - Submitting your own story!



TREASURY BUSINESS



It's time to pay your Chapter dues for the 2023 year.
The annual fee is \$25.00 and payable to
Treasurer Craig Sagebiel.

You may pay at the Holiday Social Monday night or mail to:
Craig Sagebiel
4567 Luther Rd., Seguin, TX 78155

Treasurer Craig Sagebiel requests if you haven't submitted budget requests for the 2023 year, please do so immediately as the budget will be voted on Monday night.

Send to Craig at: prcraigsagebiel@yahoo.com

2023 Training Class Mentor Program

A Mentor program for next year's training class is in the developmental stages. The information below is taken from the state Chapter Management and Operations Protocols. But, don't let that massive text discourage you! The primary overall responsibility is to "adopt" a new trainee and help them as needed to complete their program and become certified. In other words, become a FRIEND to the trainee! What's more fun than adding new friends? Retention of new trainees is an issue for every Chapter and having a buddy to rely on for encouragement will go a long way in the development of new Master Naturalists. More details will come in the Spring.

A3.3 Mentor Responsibilities – Following is a list of suggested responsibilities for mentors.

A3.3.1 Mentors will attend a meeting of mentors scheduled and convened by the membership or initial training directors in advance of the beginning of the Initial Training course, as described in A3.2.

A3.3.2 Each mentor may be assigned one or more Members-in-Training, generally within their geographical area, and will be provided a copy of the enrollment application for each.

A3.3.3 Mentors should:

- a. Contact their assigned Member-in-Training by phone and set up a physical meeting to deliver the class materials. Try to have all materials in the hands of the Member-in-Training prior to the new class reception/orientation date or start of classes.
- b. Review the textbook and class manual, stressing reading assignments prior to each class.
- c. Provide personal contact information and review the local chapter list of contacts and where the information can be found.
- d. Inform the Member-in-Training of programs available such as chapter meetings, other naturalist related organization programs, the TMN Annual Meeting, or an event in the immediate area.
- e. Talk to the Member-in-Training about the mentor's experience as a Texas Master Naturalist and volunteer projects with which the mentor is involved.
- f. Provide a class roster.
- g. Review procedures for making up a missed class or field trip [See 4.1.3].
- h. Provide information on the class reception/orientation, including time, date, and location; plan to carpool with them or meet them at the event.
- i. Help the Member-in-Training to develop a 2-minute introduction they can give at the orientation/reception/first class.
- j. Plan to attend one or more classes with the Member-in-Training, if possible; coordinate attendance permission with the training director, as space may be limited.
- k. Emphasize the commitment and requirement of volunteering and advanced training and provide information about how and when to report those hours in VMS.
- l. Meet often throughout the Initial Training period with the Member-in-Training to answer questions, help solve problems, encourage, and to help ensure eventual certification of the Member-in-Training.
- m. Be aware of reasons a Member-in-Training falls behind in class, drops out of the class, fails to eventually certify, or fails to remain engaged in the organization. The mentor should report such information to the training director, membership director or board as appropriate.
- n. **Develop a lasting relationship with the assigned new member that continues following the training class and should continue to provide guidance and assistance to help ensure the eventual certification of the Member-in-Training.** Special attention should be focused on those new members who have not completed their initial certification or otherwise have not become engaged in chapter volunteer activities.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net. by Friday, December 30 for the January 2023 newsletter.

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 – Michelle Darnell - Schertz class	mdarnelltex@gmail.com
Nature Education – Jennifer Ehlers - Seguin	ehlers@gvec.net
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

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