

Guadalupe Chapter

Texas Master Naturalist

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



December 2023

Vol. 10 Issue 12

***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.*



You're

invited...

Guadalupe Master Naturalist Holiday Social/Year End Celebration

Monday, December 18, 2023

6:30 - 9:00 PM

St. John Lutheran Church

200 S. Center St, Marion, TX

Main dishes [meat and vegetarian] provided by Chapter

Bring a dish of your choice to share – salad, vegetable or dessert
[Please list ingredients for dietary restrictions]

tea/water provided

(feel free to bring other drinks, just no alcohol per the event location)

Tableware provided but feel free to bring your own eating utensils/plates/take home container-but don't worry, we have extras

Come have Fun with your Master Naturalist Friends



GAMES



PHOTO BOOTH



DOOR PRIZES

SLIDE SHOW OF 2023 CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENT!

PLANS FOR 2024 ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES





Help Needed with Holiday Party

Need help with:

~ **Set-up:** At least 3 more people needed. Arrive by 6:10 PM- set up tables w/ decor and table clothes- arrange sign-in table and door prize table - help with food and drink placement

~ **Clean-up:** At least 2 more people needed. Help take down; pack up décor and lightly clean the church facility — **have to be out by 9 PM**

~ **Food labeling and arrangement:** 1 person needed, arrive by 6:30

~ **Door prizes:** One more volunteer needed(in addition to to Carolyn and Kim)

**Contact Chris Castoro to volunteer at
ccastoro1340@gmail.com**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Pollinator Garden at Park West

Date: Monday, December 4, 11, 18, 2023

Time: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Location: Park West, 623 N. Vaughn, Seguin

Description: Our Pollinator Garden is a Citizen Science Monarch Observation site for Master Naturalists, adopted by the Guadalupe Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, and an approved volunteer garden site for Master Gardeners.



Come dressed for gardening, bring water and your favorite weeding tools. We'll weed, see what's coming up, and make plans for any additions we might need this year.

Contact: Liz Romero, fleurromero@gamil.com

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Forest Health at Park West

Date: Thursdays, December 7 and 14, 2023

Time: 8:30 – 11:00 AM

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

Description: Cooler weather is here so we will again tackle invasive plants in the Park West forest. Every Thursday morning from November to May, excepting holidays, we lop, we saw, we haul; all with the cooperation of the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Dept.

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.

Join the Park West Citizen Science team! 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).

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. Page 3

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



Received from our Neasloney WMA Biologist Trent Teinert:

I have really enjoyed working with all of you over the years, so with a heavy heart, I am letting you know that I am moving to another position. I accepted a position with the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a Senior Private Lands Biologist in the Partners Program covering from Austin to El Paso. I know I will not get to say goodbye to everyone, but I hope I will run into you in the future. I will try to make a WMA or Master Naturalist meeting once in a while to see you.

Until my position is backfilled, here is my supervisor's contact information in case you need assistance with anything.

Derrick Wolter, District 8 Leader, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 512-944-0107

Thank you all for the work you do conserving the wildlife of Texas!!

CITIZEN SCIENCE

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

ADVANCED TRAINING

TMNTuesday “Land Stewardship – It Might Not Be What You Think”

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM [two hours this month!]

Location: WebEx

Description: Join us for our **#TMNTuesdays** December webinar! This month's presentation is by Steve Nelle. Land stewardship has become a popular phrase over the past 20 years but what does it really mean? Here we will learn that land stewardship is not just a list of good land management practices but rather it is the inner attitude about land and the relationship that is formed between people and the land.

Register

As always - anyone can attend - Master Naturalist or not yet a Master Naturalist.

Register here: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/#december>

CHAPTER CHAT



CONGRATULATIONS!

Recertification for November

Our members have been working like busy bee's. These members have completed their 40 hours of volunteer work and at least 8 hours of Advanced Training, which means they have recertified for 2023.

Gayle Temple and David Benbow

We would especially like to thank these members for dedicating themselves to our chapter with all their volunteer hours.

250 Hours

Chris Castoro

500 Hours

John Barrington

1000 Hours

Bruce Bebow

From the class of 2023, we have 2 newly certified Master Naturalist

Craig Bruska and Belinda Rossiter

We also have several members from the Class of 2022 who have reached their goal of a **Double Certification**.

Patty Garcia

Susan Hanks

Niki Lake

Melissa Moon

From our President:

Guadalupe Master Naturalists Committees for 2024

Our Chapter functions due to the volunteers who individually or through a committee gets things done. Without the committees planning, the execution of the activities would not happen. So, ...

Please consider volunteering to run or participate in one of the committees below (More can be added to the list if you are prepared to run it). The time you spend supporting a committee counts as volunteer hours. Committees take as much time as you are prepared to allocate, typically about 10 hours over the year.

1. **Monthly Program** – Find speakers of interest to the public as well as the Master Naturalists for the monthly chapter meeting. May also arrange occasional field trips. For more information speak to Laura Griffiths
2. **Training Course** – This is the education course for new Master Naturalists. This class will be held from September 2024 in Schertz. We need a co-ordinator and class leads. For more information speak to Michelle Darnell















3. **Nature Education** – Plan and carry out educational and outreach activities that fall under Training and Educating Others (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. Prepare standard outreach programs.

There are three sub-committees coordinated by Jennifer Ehlers.

1. **Discovery Series Seguin** - holds monthly sessions in Seguin
 2. **Discovery Series Schertz** - Holds monthly session in Schertz
 3. **Outreach** - Coordinates and manages a GMN table / booth upon request at Earth day, various organizations who request our presence
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 invasive plant removals; biological surveys; trail building and maintenance; and, create and maintain wildscapes and interpretive areas. For more information speak to Sandi Wheeler or Tom Hardaway
5. **Advanced Training** (AT) – Identify and approve training programs and field trips. This committee will also arrange joint AT opportunities with other chapters. For more information speak to Jim Dyess
6. **Communications** – External publicity including press releases and program announcements. Internal communications to include newsletter, website, Facebook, and email to members. For more information speak to Bruce Bebow
7. **Marketing** - Bring to the attention of the public and organization the presence and purpose of the Guadalupe Master Naturalists. A new committee, see Bruce Bebow or any board member for more details
8. **Membership** – All functions relating to VMS; order certification and milestone pins; maintain the Chapter roster. Help keep members involved in the Chapter. For more information speak to Michelle Darnell
9. **10th anniversary** - Organize and carryout events to publicize and celebrate the 10th year of the Chapter. There could be 4 sub committees, one each of each quarter in 2024. For more information speak to a Board member
10. **Hospitality** – Plan and oversee social events at monthly programs, Chapter hosted events, and the end of year meeting. There are two sub-committees, one for Seguin and one for Schertz. For more information, speak to Chris Dyess

Either contact Chris Dyess to volunteer or fill in the appropriate sign-up sheet at the end of year Holiday Social.

Palmetto State Park Activities and Opportunities

December 2023 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. 2nd	1:30PM	Meet by the Artesian Well		Christmas Crafts: Decorate your own Christmas tree while learning about its importance to us
	3:00PM	Meet by the Artesian Well		Fishing 101: Cast a line, or learn how to at this come and go event. All equipment is provided
Sat. Dec. 9th	9:30AM	Meet in front of CCC Refectory		Birdwalk 101: Join this walk to learn about the local birds
Park will be CLOSED to the public from <u>noon Friday Dec. 15th - noon Monday Dec. 18th</u> for Wildlife Management Efforts				
Sat. Dec. 23rd	9:30AM	Meet in front of CCC Refectory		Birdwalk 101: Join this walk to learn about the local birds
	9:30AM	Meet by the Artesian Well		Plants of Palmetto: Learn about the plants found in our park, along with their uses
	11:00AM	Meet in front of CCC Refectory		Junior Ranger Academy: Earn your Jr. Ranger badge on this guided hike
	1:30PM	Meet by the Artesian Well		Christmas Crafts: Decorate your own Christmas tree while learning about its importance to us
Sat. Dec. 30th	10:00AM	Meet by the Artesian Well		Discovery Table (Animals of the Park): This come and go event showcases a variety of skins and skulls
	2:30PM	Campsite #18		Outgoing Outdoors 101 - Campfire Safety: Learn the basics about making a safe fire and enjoy a tasty treat



For more information, visit: bit.ly/3XxP8ev
 Need a fishing pole? Ask HQ for more details!
 Or borrow a Junior Ranger Explorer Pack & earn a Junior Ranger badge!



December AT & VT Opportunities

T E X A S



Visit txmn.org/guadalupe/calendar to register or learn more about each opportunity listed below. Check back often---new items added as we hear about them.
Need to add an event or report a change? Please send information to gmncl@guadmn.org.

AT-Advanced Training

Saturday, December 2

9:00am – 11:30am AT Honey Creek Hike (In person)

Sunday, December 3

8:00am – 11:00am AT Guided Bird Tours (In person)

9:00am – 11:30am AT Honey Creek Hike (In person)

Thursday, December 7

9:00am – 10:30am AT Scenic Overlook Nature Hike (In person)

Saturday, December 9

9:00am – 11:30am AT Honey Creek Hike (In person)

Sunday, December 10

8:00am – 11:00am AT Guided Bird Tours (In person)

9:00am – 11:30am AT Honey Creek Hike (In person)

Tuesday, December 12

12:00pm – 1:00pm AT TMN Tuesday (Webinar)

Thursday, December 14

9:00am – 10:30am AT Scenic Overlook Nature Hike (In person)

Saturday, December 16

9:00am – 4:00pm AT/VT Kirchoff Prairie Restoration Workday (In person)

9:00am – 11:30am AT Honey Creek Hike (In person)

Sunday, December 17

8:00am – 11:00am AT Guided Bird Tours (In person)

Thursday, December 21

9:00am – 10:30am AT Scenic Overlook Nature Hike (In person)

6:00pm – 7:30pm AT LMN Chapter Meeting (In person or virtual)

Saturday, December 23

8:00am – 10:00am AT Beginner Bird Walk (In person)

Sunday, December 24

8:00am – 11:00am AT Guided Bird Tours (In person)

Thursday, December 28

9:00am – 10:30am AT Scenic Overlook Nature Hike (In person)

Saturday, December 30

9:00am – 11:30am AT Honey Creek Hike (In person)

VT-Volunteer Time

Friday, December 1

9:00am – 11:00am VT Native Tree Care

Saturday, December 2

12:00pm – 2:00pm VT Bioblitz at the HW

Monday, December 4

8:30am – 10:30am VT Pollinator Garden

Thursday, December 7

8:30am – 11:30am VT Park West Project

9:00am – 11:00am VT Compost Workday

Friday, December 8

10:00am – 12:00pm VT Native Seed Day

Saturday, December 9

9:00am – 11:00am VT Paths and Swales

Thursday, December 14

8:30am – 11:30am VT Park West Project

9:00am – 11:00am VT Restoration Work Day

Friday, December 15

9:00am – 10:30am VT Birding at the HW

Saturday, December 16

9:00am – 4:00pm AT/VT Kirchoff Prairie

12:00pm – 2:00pm VT Bioblitz at the HW

Thursday, December 21

9:00am – 11:00am VT Invasive Species Day

Friday, December 22

9:00am – 11:00am VT Erosion Control Work Day

Saturday, December 23

9:00am – 11:00am VT Restoration Work Day

FLEX-Flexible Schedule VT

All month – these opportunities need volunteers for projects throughout the month. Contact the point of contact to arrange a day that fits your schedule.

FLEX Neasloney Wildlife Management Area

FLEX Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary

AT=Advanced Training, VT=Volunteer Time, FLEX=Flexible Schedule VT

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net by Friday, December 29 for the January 2024 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 – Laura Griffith	ljgriffith528@gmail.com
Training Class – Michelle Darnell	mdarnelltex@gmail.com
Nature Education – Jennifer Ehlers	ehlers@gvec.net
Citizen Science – Sandi Wheeler	wheels5683@gmail.com
Advanced Training – Jim Dyess	jnd16123@gmail.com
Communications – Bruce Bebow	bbebow@gmail.com
Newsletter – Marilyn Anderson	MarilynA@access4less.net
Membership/VMS – Michelle Darnell	mdarnelltex@gmail.com
Fund Raising – Craig Sagebiel	prcraigsagebiel@yahoo.com
Hospitality – Marilyn Anderson, Seguin	MarilynA@access4less.net
Kenneth Harvey -Schertz	knnthdhvry@yahoo.com
Deborah Dedrick - Schertz	ddedrick7@gmail.com



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The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the
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