

Guadalupe Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

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



February 2024

Vol. 11 Issue 2

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.*

Guadalupe Master Naturalists Monthly Program and Business Meeting

Date: Monday, February 26, 2024

Time: 6:30 PM - Social/Visiting

7:00 PM - Program

8:00 PM - Business Meeting

Location: Schertz Area Senior Center, 608 Schertz Parkway, Schertz

Program: Krystie Miner, Project Coordinator for Bracken Cave Preserve, will speak.

She has a Bachelor's degree from Boise State University and a Master's from Texas State University. Her background involves work with birds, fish, and bats. She first started working with bats in 2014 and they have always been her biggest passion.



Members who are able are asked to bring something to contribute to the refreshment table. It doesn't have to be anything elaborate or even homemade! Whatever you place on the table will be appreciated. The Chapter will provide drinks.

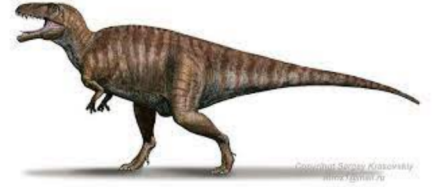
Marilyn Anderson serves as coordinator at the Seguin meetings.

Enjoy greeting guests, meeting new members, Training Class students and visiting with each other!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NATURE EDUCATION

Discover Dinosaurs



Acrocanthosaurus

Date: Saturday, February 3, 2024 [Note! This is a change in program day]

Time: staggered start times 9:30 – 10:00 AM Volunteers, please arrive at 8:30 A.M.

Location: Seguin Public Library, 313 W. Nolte

Description: This is a revised program, with less emphasis on measuring and tracks, and more on learning about various dinosaurs that roamed in different parts of Texas millions of years ago. If interested in helping and you have not already contacted Jennifer Ehlers, please do so.

Contact: Jennifer Ehlers at ehlers@gvec.net to volunteer

Discover Soils

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2024

Time: staggered start times 9:30 – 10:00 AM Volunteers, please arrive at 8:30 A.M.

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, Schertz

Description: This is a new Discovery Program, that combines one that was used at the SOLC with materials and information created by Clara Mae and Liz on soil and composting. If interested in helping and you have not already reached out to Laura Griffith, please do so.

Contact: Laura Griffith at ljgriffith528@gmail.com to volunteer

Pollinator Garden at Park West

No work will be done at the pollinator garden until we receive a frost.



Walk with a Naturalist at Crescent Bend Nature Park

Contact Carolyn Wolfer, wolfercdat@mac.com for information about a January walk.

Toast to Texas - Celebrating the Texas Declaration of Independence

Date: Saturday, March 2, 2024

Time: 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Location: Seguin Central Park

Description: Seguin will honor the past by telling the story of Texas and how it won its Independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836. This year the event will be in Central Park, and includes a number of other local organizations including our Master Naturalist chapter. It is scheduled to start at 11:00 and wrap up mid-afternoon. There is a program at 1:30 and the actual toast is at 2:00. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department are the sponsors.



The Texas Master Naturalist table will include materials from the Early Texans Discovery series box to talk about life in Texas before the towns and cities were settled. Much of the "living off the land" talking points used in the current Discovery series program would have applied to the earliest settlers from Europe as well as the Native Americans. Since this is an outreach event, a key purpose is to get information about the Master Naturalists program out to the public.

Sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849ADAC2CABF8C52-47363487-public#/>

Contact: Jim Dyess jnd16123@gmail.com 713/206-6

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Park West Forest Restoration

Date: Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024

Time: 8:30 – 11:00 AM

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

Description: Join the Park West Forest Restoration Team meeting every Thursday. We have a 48 acre park to reclaim from invasive ligustrum and chinaberry, so dress for outdoor work and bring water and tools. Our First Forest area, begun by Class #1 in 2014, is looking wonderful - like a true Texas forest of oaks, cedar elms, and pecans. If you're not ready to work, and just want to take a look, bring the team some yummys for the 10 AM water break.

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.

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

Contact Nick Franzen, nhfranz204@gmail.com or Craig Wagner, craigwagner31@aol.com to inquire about the status of work days at Neasloney now that Trent has left.

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 Page 2

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

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

Acoustic Bat Monitoring

Starting in May 2024 TPWD Texas Nature Trackers will be collecting data through acoustic monitoring to provide a better understanding of the distribution of more than 30 species of bats across Texas. They are asking Texas Master Naturalist Chapters to assist in this community science effort. There are multiple ways to participate including collecting acoustic data on private and public lands using TPWD provided acoustic monitors and helping in the storage and analysis of the collected data. The TPWD provided acoustic monitor is placed in the designated location on a Monday and retrieved again the following Friday. It only needs to be done once annually in the April to June time frame for each location. Because we will only have one or two acoustic monitors we will be coordinating the transfer of the monitors to each location during the monitoring period. Currently we have chapter members volunteering to monitor bats at Crescent Bend Nature Park, Palmetto State Park, and Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary but we can add other locations across our region.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, contact Sandi Wheeler at

To learn more about bats in Texas, and the TNT Bat Acoustic Monitoring Project you can also view Craig Hensley's recorded presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOEVBKjIZA2Tk5diY8A2qug>

City Nature Challenge 2024

Master Naturalists, let's do this! City Nature Challenge 2024 is coming this April 26-29. The challenge started as a friendly competition between San Francisco and Los Angeles in 2016. The goal was for citizen science teams in these rival California cities to document local wildlife. Los Angeles area won that first contest with 10,352 observations, 1,601 species and 574 participants. Now the challenge has spread across the world! The CNC 2023 winner was the city of La Paz, Bolivia.

How can San Antonio area Master Naturalists participate in City Nature Challenge? Download the iNaturalist app, take photos or record sounds of local nature on April 26-29, then upload your photos/sounds into iNaturalist by May 5. It's that easy! There are **12 counties** included in the San Antonio Metro Area, so use City Nature Challenge as a reason to explore. These counties are Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Gillespie, Goliad, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina and Wilson counties.

Our goal is to pass the Dallas and Houston areas in iNaturalist observations during April 26-29! We edged out the Austin area during City Nature Challenge 2023. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make that happen last year.

We've got you covered with more inspiration and tips in the coming months. Follow us on Facebook at "City Nature Challenge Team: San Antonio Metro Area", and visit us at www.CNC-SA.org.

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE!!

APRIL 26-29, 2024



Be a part of a global challenge to see which city can document the most wildlife species. All local observations made April 26-29, 2024 will automatically help San Antonio Metro Area succeed in winning the City Nature Challenge!!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

To join in, just create an account on the iNaturalist app (available on IOS and Android).



1

FIND WILDLIFE



2

TAKE A PHOTO OF WHAT YOU SEE



3

SHARE ON THE APP

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES



LEARN MORE:

www.CNC-SA.org

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ADVANCED TRAINING

iNaturalist Train the Trainer Workshop

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Description: Speakers will be Craig Hensley and Wendy Anderson, Texas Nature Trackers Biologists, TPWD. The Texas Nature Trackers (TNT) program is looking for Master Naturalists interested in becoming TNT certified iNaturalist workshop trainers across Texas. During this workshop we will provide you the training needed to get started as an iNaturalist trainer for your chapter, community and/or region. As a pre-requisite, we are looking for individuals that are already consistent users of iNaturalist, having a good understanding of the platform, and have an interest in teaching others in your community to engage with the platform. We'll provide a quick overview of the app, provide an in-depth overview of the website and how data are used by TPWD, and finally tips and tricks for teaching it to others. We will provide attendees intending to become workshop trainers with a PowerPoint presentation to take home that will get you started. Should you accept this challenge, you will become an advocate not only for its use as an educational tool within your chapter but also for promoting community science and better understanding of the distribution of the state's flora and fauna.

Location: Webex webinar

Registration: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/#february>

TMNTuesday - Rattlesnakes

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Location: WebEx

Description: Speaker Chip Ruthven, Natural Resource Specialist and Project Leader, has been the project leader for the Panhandle Wildlife Management Areas since 2004. He is stationed at the Matador Wildlife Management Area. Chip has special interest and advanced knowledge in rattlesnakes.

Register: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>



Our 2024 certification pin is the
Diamondback Rattlesnake!

Guadalupe Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas The Magic of Milkweed

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Time: 6:30 PM – Refreshments/Social Time
7:00 PM – Program

Location: St. John Lutheran Church, 600 South Center, Marion, TX

Description: Lee Marlowe will speak on milkweeds, amazing plants that host caterpillars of the Monarch butterfly and other species. In addition to being larval host plants, milkweeds serve an important role as nectar plants for a wide variety of insects. Individual milkweed plants are often teeming with life, serving as small, unique ecosystems within a landscape. Lee will discuss the importance of native milkweeds, share photos showing a close look at some of the many creatures interconnected with milkweed, and provide tips on how to care for milkweed in your landscape.



Lee Marlowe is a restoration ecologist with over 20 years of professional experience working in the field of ecological restoration and natural resource management including sustainable landscape practices and applications. Her expertise includes the use of native plants to provide wildlife habitat, water quality benefits and aesthetic beauty in landscapes of all sizes. She is an avid native plant gardener and currently serves as the Sustainable Landscape Ecologist for the San Antonio River Authority and President of the San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Website: <https://npsot.org/chapters/guadalupe>

National Wildlife Federation's Monarch Stewards Program Citizen Science Workshop



Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024

Location: Cibolo Center for Conservation, Boerne, TX

Description: *Are you passionate about monarch butterflies and their conservation?*

Here's your chance to make a meaningful impact as a Citizen Scientist! The National Wildlife Federation's Monarch Stewards Program is hosting a Citizen Science Workshop. Join them for an exciting workshop that plays a vital role in the Tri-National monarch conservation efforts.

Key Topics Include...

- 1. Understanding and utilizing the Larvae Monitoring Protocol (MLMP)*
- 2. Testing for the *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* protozoan parasite (Monarch Health)*
- 3. Monarch tagging techniques for fall migration tracking*
- 4. Collecting data on monarch sightings and reporting to esteemed organizations like Monarch Health Lab, Monarch Watch, and Journey North*
- 5. Efficiently using iNaturalist and the Texas Nature Tracker as platforms for species identification and collecting specific monarch data*

If you have any questions, please email MonarchStewards@nwf.org

Register: <https://bit.ly/CitSciBTX>

State Master Naturalist Conference in San Marcos

Date: October 24 – 27, 2024

There is a lot of opportunity for you as an individual as well as us as a chapter. Our President, Mark de Kiewiet, served as our chapter liason supported by Susan Hanks. Please direct any questions, suggestions, etc. to them.

It is estimated 592 volunteer hours will be available during the conference. From pre-conference work, starting NOW, to opportunities during the conference as well as post-conference. Interested?

If you know of any GOOD Key Note and session speakers, workshops (1 r to 4 hr), field trips (half or full day), let Mark know. There will be pre and post field trips. The method for signing up for an event will be changed to make it easier to sign up. There will also be a waiting list and should a field trip be popular, the host will be asked about additional trips. Suggestions of Vendors whose services or products support Nature Conservation can be suggested as well as sponsors or donors.

There will be a group accommodation discount before, during and after the event. Registration can be for a day, two days or all of the conference. Attending a field day or presentation can earn you AT hours and helping at the conference VT hours. Volunteers are needed for Field sessions and Docents, Move in and Move out, Silent auction, Photo & Art, Registration, Room Host, Vendors and Floaters.

February 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

Thursday, February 1

10:00am – 11:30am AT Scenic Overlook Nature Hike (In person)

Saturday, February, 3

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

Sunday, February 4

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

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

Tuesday, February 6

11:00am – 1:00pm AT iNaturalist Train the Trainer Workshop (Webinar)

Thursday, February 8

10:00am – 11:30am AT Scenic Overlook Nature Hike (In person)

Saturday, February 10

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

Sunday, February 11

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

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

Tuesday, February 13

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

6:30pm – 8:30pm AT NPSOT Guadalupe Chapter Meeting (In person)

Thursday, February 15

10:00am – 11:30am AT Scenic Overlook Nature Hike (In person)

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

Saturday, February 17

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

Sunday, February 18

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

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

Saturday, February 24

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

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

Sunday, February 25

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

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

3:30pm – 4:30pm AT/VT Walk With a Naturalist (In person)

VT-Volunteer Time

Thursday, February 1

8:30am – 11:30am VT Park West Project

Saturday, February, 3

8:30am – 11:30am VT Discovery Series

10:00am – 11:30am VT Pollinator Garden

1:30pm – 2:30pm VT Fishing With a Ranger

3:00pm – 4:00pm VT Plants of Palmetto Hike

Thursday, February 8

8:30am – 11:30am VT Park West Project

Friday, February 9

6:30pm – 8:00pm VT Star Stories

Saturday, February 10

8:30am – 11:30am VT Discovery Series

9:00am – 10:30am VT Bird Walk 101

1:30pm – 2:30pm VT Wonderful Watercolors

Thursday, February 15

8:30am – 11:30am VT Park West Project

Friday, February 16

All day VT 2024 Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 17

All day VT 2024 Great Backyard Bird Count

8:00am – 9:30am VT Natural Intentions Hike

10:00am – 11:00am VT Discovery Table

(Animals of the Park)

1:30pm – 2:30pm VT Junior Ranger Academy

Sunday, February 18

All day VT 2024 Great Backyard Bird Count

Monday, February 19

All day VT 2024 Great Backyard Bird Count

Thursday, February 22

8:30am – 11:30am VT Park West Project

Saturday, February 24

9:00am – 10:30am VT Bird Walk 101

Sunday, February 25

3:30pm – 4:30pm AT/VT Walk With a Naturalist
(In person)

Thursday, February 29

8:30am – 11:30am VT Park West Project

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

WELCOME TO THE TEAM
HANNAH FERGUSON
TMN PROGRAM SPECIALIST



EDUCATION

*B.S. in Agricultural
Communications and
Journalism from Texas
A&M University*

*M.S. in Agricultural and
Extension Education,
Communications and
Leadership from the
University of Arkansas*

ROLES AT TMN

- Chapter Liaison
- Website and Social
Media Manager
- Chapter-to-State
Communications Lead

INTERESTS

- Reading
- Hiking and Kayaking
- Photography
- Sewing
- Hunting

You can connect with Hannah by email at hannah.ferguson@ag.tamu.edu or by phone at 512-763-6558.

CHAPTER CHAT

Now is the time to pay your Chapter dues of \$25.00.
Pay at the February 26 Chapter meeting or mail to:

Guadalupe Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists
c/o Treasurer Chris Castoro
210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, TX 78155



NEXT NEWSLETTER

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net by **Friday, February 23 for the March 2024 issue.**

Officers:

President – Mark de Kiewiet

mark.dekiewiet@att.net

Vice-president – Susan Hanks

depositemailhere@gmail.com

Secretary – Chris Dyess

ced16123@gmail.com

Treasurer – Chris Castoro

ccastoro1340@gmail.com

Committee Chairmen:

Program – Laura Griffith

ljgriffith528@gmail.com

Training Class – Michelle Darnell

mdarnelltex@gmail.com

Nature Education – Jennifer Ehlers [Seguin]

ehlers@gvec.net

Laura Griffith [Schertz]

ljgriffith528@gmail.com

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 –

Marketing -

10th Chapter Anniversary Celebration -

Hospitality – Marilyn Anderson, Seguin

MarilynA@access4less.net

Kenneth Harvey -Schertz

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Deborah Dedrick - Schertz

ddedrick7@gmail.com



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

The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the
A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife

