

# Guadalupe Chapter

## Texas Master Naturalist

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



March 2024

Vol. 11 Issue 3

***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, March 25, 2024

**Time:** 6:30 PM - Social/Visiting

7:00 PM - Program

8:00 PM - Business Meeting

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

### **Program: Keeping Nature a Priority in Seguin ISD**

Pete Silvius, Director of Whole Child Initiatives for Seguin ISD, has been leading Seguin ISD's efforts to get students outdoors for many years at the Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center and around central Texas. He had major involvement in the Seguin ISD acquisition of the Outdoor Learning Center. Pete will be presenting information on the importance of nature to children and youth as well as providing an update on the Outdoor Learning Center.



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 hospitality coordinator at the Seguin meetings.

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

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### NATURE EDUCATION

#### Discover What's Flying/Birds Beaks

**Date:** Saturday, March 2, 2024

**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:** Participants learn how to use clues to identify birds and how a bird's beak determines feeding habits. Kids will receive free "fun-noculars" to study shapes, sizes and colors of birds.

**Contact:** Jennifer Ehlers at [ehlers@gvec.net](mailto:ehlers@gvec.net) to volunteer



#### Discover Rocks, Earth's Building Blocks

**Date:** Saturday, March 9, 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:** Participants will use their senses of vision, touch, smell, taste and hearing to make observations of different rock types.

**Contact:** Laura Griffith at [ljgriffith528@gmail.com](mailto:ljgriffith528@gmail.com) to volunteer



#### Pollinator Garden at Park West

**Dates:** Mondays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024

**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](mailto:fleurromero@gamil.com)

#### Walk with a Naturalist at Crescent Bend Nature Park

**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024

**Contact** Carolyn Wolfer, [wolfercdat@mac.com](mailto:wolfercdat@mac.com) for information about a January walk.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### Park West Forest Restoration

**Date:** Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, 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](mailto:freedom516@yahoo.com)) or Nancy Masterson (830-305-9104 or [nsethermasterson@gmail.com](mailto:nsethermasterson@gmail.com)).

### M. O. Neasloney Wildlife Management Area

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

## CITIZEN SCIENCE

### Texas Stream Team Training

Texas Stream Team at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment is a statewide environmental education and volunteer-based water quality monitoring program. Citizen scientists are trained to collect and submit surface water and environmental quality data that can then be used to promote and protect the 191,000 miles of Texas waterways.

Training sessions are available several times this year.

To find out more information or reserve a spot, you must contact: Adam Berglund (Coordinator - San Marcos River Rangers)

RiverRangers@[SanMarcosRiver.Org](http://SanMarcosRiver.Org) <<mailto:RiverRangers@SanMarcosRiver.Org>>

### 2024 Water Quality Monitoring training schedule:

#### Standard Core:

Mar. 10, 2024 (SUN) 10AM-2PM - Standard Core @ San Marcos

Apr. 13, 2024 (SAT) 10AM-2PM - Standard Core @ San Marcos

May 11, 2024 (SAT) 10AM-2PM - Standard Core @ San Marcos

Jun. 09, 2024 (SUN) 10AM-2PM - Standard Core @ San Marcos

Jul. 13, 2024 (SAT) 11AM-3PM - Standard Core @ San Marcos

Aug. 11, 2024 (SUN) 10AM-2PM - Standard Core @ San Marcos

Sep. 07, 2024 (SAT) 10AM-2PM - Standard Core @ San Marcos

Oct. 13, 2024 (SUN) 10AM-2PM - Standard Core @ San Marcos  
Nov. 09, 2024 (SAT) 10AM-2PM - Standard Core @ San Marcos  
Dec. 08, 2024 (SUN) 10AM-2PM - Standard Core @ San Marcos

Riparian Evaluation:

May 12, 2024 (SUN) 10AM-2PM - Riparian Eval @ San Marcos  
Jun. 08, 2024 (SAT) 11AM-3PM - Riparian Eval @ San Marcos  
Jul. 14, 2024 (SUN) 10AM-2PM - Riparian Eval @ San Marcos  
Aug. 10, 2024 (SAT) 10AM-2PM - Riparian Eval @ San Marcos  
Nov. 10, 2024 (SUN) 10AM-2PM - Riparian Eval @ San Marcos  
Dec. 07, 2024 (SAT) 10AM-2PM - Riparian Eval @ San Marcos

For more information go to the Texas Stream Team website,  
<https://www.meadowscenter.txst.edu/leadership/texasstreamteam/about.html>

**City Nature Challenge 2024: Team Tournament!**

**Dates:** April 26 – 29, 2024 Taking pictures of wild plants and animals  
April 30 – May 5, 2024 Identifying what was found.

Let's have fun! This isn't an ordinary contest. This is CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2024 so let's get after it, Master Naturalists! We have teams, prizes, and fun coming your way.

**TEAMS:** This is a chance for us as Master Naturalists to spread our knowledge of iNaturalist in a fun, engaging way. To do this, mobilize your friends and family into a Team! Give your Team a name (Forces of Nature? The Tree Huggers?) and register your Team under "Join as a Team" at <https://cnca.org/participate/>. If you want to be assigned to a Team, we can do that too. Teams can have 2-6 members. Registration deadline for Teams is April 19.

**GOAL:** Make MANY iNaturalist observations during April 26-29 in the San Antonio Metro Area (includes 12 counties). Challenge yourself or your Team to document varying species, too.

**PRIZES:** We have Team and Individual prizes to award! This is where your hard work pays off. Pins, Tshirts, plaques and CNC Fiesta medals will be awarded during our end-of-challenge party at Confluence Park on May 17, 6:00-8:00 pm. Wouldn't a CNC2024 pin look great on your lanyard or hat? Of course it would, so make a plan now to help San Antonio WIN TEXAS! FUN: See all the above!

Fun on your own, fun as a member of a Team, and fun prizes for helping us WIN TEXAS.

**We can do this, Master Naturalists! Let's WIN Texas!**

## 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](mailto:wheels5683@gmail.com) for current opportunities



White-Crowned Sparrow "photobombed" by a Green-Tailed Towhee at Warbler Woods on February 22, 2024. Thanks to Chris Castoro for submitting the photo.



### **28th Annual Birding Classic**

**The biggest, longest, wildest birdwatching tournament in the U.S.!**

2024 Birding Classic registration is now open! Gather your teammates and sign up today to be a part of the next Great Texas Birding Classic.



Who can join the fun:

- All levels and ages of birders are welcome to join this Texas birdwatching event during the amazing spring migration.
- There's a tournament category for everyone - from the beginning backyard birder to the competitive lister!
- Registration fees raise money for Texas bird and birding conservation project grants.
- Gather your team, register, and go birding - it's truly that simple.

**For more Information:** <https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic/the-great-texas-birding-classic>



### **Big Sit at Palmetto State Park**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024

**Description:** This event is part of the **Great Texas Birding Classic**. Details in the April newsletter.

### **ADVANCED TRAINING**

#### **TMNTuesday -**

**"Texas Raptor Monitoring Network: a participatory science program to monitor the reproductive biology of raptors across Texas."**

**\*Date:** Tuesday, March 5, 2024

**Time:** 12:00 – 1:00 PM

**Location:** WebEx

**Description:** This month's speakers are Dr. Ben Skipper, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at Angelo State University and Dr. Clint Boal, Assistant Unit Leader for the USGS Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Texas Tech University.

This program will use the monitoring of raptor nests as a model for engaging with the public through participatory science. Raptors are charismatic wildlife with wide public appeal. Since the 1960's several species of raptor have adapted to urban and suburban environments, yet much remains to be learned about the reproductive ecology of many species in these areas. This participatory science program therefore would serve to fill this data gap and provide relevant information back to participants. Workshop participants will be provided instruction on identification of raptor species, the identification of different stages within the nesting cycle and their associated behaviors, and the balance between gathering data and disturbing nesting birds. Data collection will be made simple via an electronic form with pre-defined fields that can be accessed via any internet-connected device (e.g., smartphone, tablet, desktop computer).

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

**\*PLEASE NOTE: This month's #TMNTuesday is occurring one week earlier than usual on the first Tuesday of the month.\***

**Collin County Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas**  
**Native Plant Alternatives to Invasives**



**Date:** Monday, March 5, 2024

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:30

**Location:** online via ZOOM

**Description:** Presentation by Deedy Wright on “I’m Being Invaded! What Can I Do?”. Her talk will define the term “invasive” and discuss reasons for how and why these plants are here, and the damage they do to our environment. In addition, Deedy will provide ecoregion-specific “alterNative” suggestions for some of the more common invasive plants.

Use this link to connect to meeting:

<https://www.npsot.org/event/collin-county-chapter-invasives-and-alternative-native-plants/>

**Guadalupe Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas**  
**Spring Native Plant Propagation**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024

**Time:** 6:30 PM – Refreshments/Social Time

7:00 PM – Program

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

**Description:** Speaker Craig Bruska’s talk will focus on Spring native plant propagation methods, methods to improve growing seed and other propagation methods.

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



The **Virtual Volunteer Fair** will be an opportunity for our partner conservation organizations to present volunteer service projects that need volunteers from a distance or virtually! **Save the Date** and plan to join us on **Tuesday April 9th 2024**, for this series of project presentations showcasing opportunities from across the state and across the spectrum of natural resource topics.

**More information at:** <https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/virtual-volunteer-fair-2024/>

## **Doeppenschmidt-Weidner Ranch Public Tour** **Honey Creek State Natural Area**

**Date:** Saturday, March 23, 2024

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Location:** Honey Creek State Natural Area/Guadalupe River State Park

**Description:** Join us for our second tour of the historic Doeppenschmidt-Weidner Ranch. Explore the ranch site of the earliest settlers in the Honey Creek State Natural Area. Visit the grave of Jacob Doeppenschmidt (d. 1872) Learn about ranching in the early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Listen to Weidner descendants tell tales about their grandparents' ranch.

**Registration:** Space is limited, Register early Contact Mackenzie Brown at:  
[mbrown@trinity.edu](mailto:mbrown@trinity.edu) or 210-748-1110

**Fee:** \$20 Members of Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek

\$30 Non-Members

## **Beekeeping 101**

**Date:** In-person - Friday, April 12, 2024

Field Day Options: April 13 & 18

On-line – Self-paced

Field Day Options: April 18 & 29



**Description:** Thinking about keeping bees? Take the best Beekeeping 101 course offered in Texas! Now offered In Person or Online - both with a hands on field day. Get inside a hive, learn how to handle bees, diagnose issues, and perform basic beekeeping maintenance

### **Information and Registration:**

In-person Class: fee = \$60.00

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=785589&language=eng>

On-line Class: fee = \$35.00

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=786972&language=eng>



Get excited for our Texas Master Naturalist 2024 Annual Meeting – to be held Thursday, October 24th through Sunday, October 27th in San Marcos, Texas. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

The Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for the Texas Master Naturalist volunteers from around the state to gather, participate in hands-on educational seminars, and receive all their Advanced Training requirements for the year in one weekend. It's also an opportunity for program participants and supporters to network, share new ideas, and to learn from chapters in different regions of the state



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

## Kim Lewis

**NEXT NEWSLETTER**

**Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, [MarilynA@access4less.net](mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net) by Friday, March 29, 2024 for the April 2024 issue**

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## Fund Raising –

Marketing -

10<sup>th</sup> Chapter Anniversary Celebration -

Hospitality – Marilyn Anderson, Seguin

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Kenneth Harvey -Schertz

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Deborah Dedrick - Schertz

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