



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, April 22, 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: Steven Ellery will be speaking on the topic of light pollution and its effects on humans and the ecosystem. Steven is Vice-president and a founding member of the Comal County Friends of the Night Sky. Come learn what you can do about the effects of light pollution.



Social time is Happy time!

We enjoy visiting and catching up on things during our pre-meeting social time. The contributions of refreshments adds so much as we gather.

If you are able, please 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.

Ken Harvey and Deb Detric serve as hospitality coordinators at the Seguin meetings.

THANK YOU
to those who consistently bring refreshments



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NATURE EDUCATION

Discover Sensational Snakes

Date: Saturday, April 6, 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 snakes are adapted for survival.

Contact: Tom Hardaway at tehardaway@yahoo.com to volunteer.



Discover Impressive Insects

Date: Saturday, April 13, 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: Insects are a critical part of the ecosystem. They pollinate, are part of the food chain and many more important functions. But what about bugs? Learn the difference between what is often called “a bug” and what a bug really is!

Contact: Laura Griffith at ljgriffith528@gmail.com for information.

Sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48AAAD2AABFE3-48724492-impressive>



Pollinator Garden at Park West

Dates: Mondays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024

Time: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Location: Park West, 623 N. Vaughn, Seguin

Description: 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.



Our Pollinator Garden is a Citizen Science Monarch Observation site for Master Naturalists.

Contact: Liz Romero, fleurromero@gamil.com

Walk with a Naturalist at Crescent Bend Nature Park

Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024

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



Seguin's Earth Day Celebration at Central Park Monarch Mania

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2024

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 am – Set-up crew needed

10:00 am – 3:00 pm – Earth Day events

3:00 – 4:00 pm – Break-down crew

Location: Central Park, downtown Seguin

Description: The Guadalupe Master Naturalists will once again have a big presence at this annual

event. This year we will feature the Monarch Butterfly with the opportunity for guests to make a monarch finger puppet, take a photo with monarch wings, and learn about the migration that passes through our communities. This provides us the opportunity to interact with lots of people who might not be familiar with who we are and what we do. We also have the chance to provide some hands-on experiences for all the youth in attendance. To make all this happen, we need volunteers. The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., but we also need folks to help set-up and tear-down our booths.

Sign-up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4DA8A723A02-48701613-earth>

Contact: Jennifer Ehlers at ehlers@gvec.net



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! 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.

During the hottest months of the year, in-the-field service projects become less desirable and hit a lull until cooler months come around. After five successful TMN VVF events, our members are asking for more virtual and distance-based service projects!

How do I join?

Registration to attend our Virtual Volunteer Fair is now open. It is free to register! You can attend any or all project proposal presentations – come and go as you please! TMN volunteers will **earn Volunteer Service hours** for attending all project proposal sessions – please use the “TMN Virtual Volunteer Service Fair” Statewide Project Opportunity for logging service hours.

Register here:

<https://tpwdevents.webex.com/webappng/sites/tpwdevents/webinar/webinarSeries/register/4e6f9dd3145e4368a56d4c028b97f158>

General Information: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/blog/virtual-volunteer-fair-2024/#join>

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Park West Forest Restoration

Date: Thursdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25, 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.

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

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

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).

2024 Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Cleanup

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2024

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Description: Join in the efforts to remove trash and debris from the watershed along Geronimo Creek.

Location: Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center, 1865 E US Highway 90, Seguin

Perks: Free Breakfast & Coffee

Registration Link: <http://geronimocreek.org/>

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Birding 101 Walk at Palmetto State Park - 9:00 am on

Date: Saturday, April 27

Time: 9:00 AM

Description: Join Guadalupe Master Naturalist Elaine Cowley at the Refectory building at Palmetto SP. Elaine is an experienced birder who will guide you in the discovery of birds of Palmetto.

Stop at the Headquarters building to get a Park Day Pass before meeting at the refectory.

Questions? Contact Elaine at ecowley@gvtc.com

Texas Birding Classic Big Sit – Palmetto State Park

Date: Wednesday, April 24

Time: Sunrise to sunset

Location: Group Camping Area, Palmetto SP

Description: The objective is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within 24 hours. See full explanation in article on next page. Park pass is required.

Contact: Elaine at ecowley@gvtc.com

Palmetto State Park - Texas Birding Classic Big Sit

Palmetto State Park will be hosting a "Big Sit" on Wednesday, April 24. This will be the 7th year the park has sponsored a team. The team name is the "Texas Buzzards." The Big Sit is part of the activities for the Great Texas Birding Classic which runs from April 15 - May 15.

Learn more about the Great Texas Birding Classic at this link:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/events/great-texas-birding-classic>

The Big Sit is like a Big Day or a bird-a-thon in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within 24 hours. The difference lies in the area limitation, you may observe only from a 50' circle!

We are looking for volunteers to participate. You do not need to be an experienced birder - in fact this is a great way to learn more. You can come and go as you like - join us for an hour or the full day. It will start at 7:00 am and go until sunset. Bring a chair, binoculars (will have extra), snacks/lunch plus water depending on the length of time that you want to stay. The meeting area is the group campground. If you arrive before 8:15 am, do a self check-in at the kiosk or after that time, check-in at the office. A day pass is \$3.00 per person unless you have an annual park pass.

You do not have to register to participate! If you want to be a full member of the team which includes a t-shirt, you must **register by April 1**. You can also participate without registration. Money raised goes to TPWD conservation projects.

If you sign up for official registration, use this Ticket Class: **\$30.00 Independent Team – Big Sit**. Please let Elaine Cowley (ecowley@gvtc.com or 432-559-5101) know so she can coordinate getting the t-shirt for you and adding you officially to the team. If you have any questions, please let her know. This is an approved TMN volunteer activity.

Use this link to sign-up:

<https://secure2.convio.net/pwft/site/Ticketing;jsessionid=00000000.app20094a?view=Tickets&id=100404>



Listed below are multiple opportunities for you to participate in the 2024 City Nature Challenge.

Apr 26, 08:30 - 11:00am
Government Canyon State Natural Area
12861 Galm Rd, San Antonio, 78254

Apr 28, 08:30 - 11:00am
Palmetto State Park
78 Park Road 11 South
Gonzales, 78629-5180

Apr 29, 0800 - 11:00am
Crescent Bend Nature Park
12805 Schaefer Rd, Schertz

Apr 29, 08:00 - 12: 00 pm
Park West
Welcomes at 8:00 am and 10:00 am
601 N Vaughan St, Seguin

For more information: <https://www.citynaturechallenge.org/>

Contact for information: Sandi Wheeler, wheels5683@gmail.com

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!



Birding Opportunities with Sandi Wheeler

Date: April 18

Time: 8:00 – 11:00am

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, 12805 Schaefer Rd, Schertz

Date: Apr 25

Time: 8:00 - 11:00

Location: Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary

Contact: **RSVP** to Sandi Wheeler at Wheels5683@gmail.com to attend

Date: May 30

Time: 8:00 - 11:00am

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, 12805 Schaefer Rd, Schertz

Date: Jun 15

Time: 7pm - 9pm (note: evening walk)

Location: Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary

Contact: **RSVP** to Sandi Wheeler at Wheels5683@gmail.com to attend

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 <<mailto:RiverRangers@SanMarcosRiver.Org>>

2024 Water Quality Monitoring training schedule:

Standard Core:

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

Riparian Evaluation:

May 12, 2024 (SUN) 10AM-2PM - Riparian Eval @ San Marcos

Jun. 08, 2024 (SAT) 11AM-3PM - Riparian Eval @ San Marcos

For more information go to the Texas Stream Team website,

<https://www.meadowscenter.txst.edu/leadership/texasstreamteam/about.html>

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

Collin County Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas “Cultivating a Butterfly Haven with Native Plants”

Date: Monday, April 2, 2024

Time: 6:30 – 8:30

Location: online via ZOOM

Description: Presentation by Melanie Schuchart on “Cultivating a Butterfly Haven with Native Plants of North Texas.” Melanie will discuss many of the native plants available to grow in our area to help provide sustenance and protection for butterflies, including some you probably know and some unusual ones that you might not. Spring is a great time to prepare your garden, and if you are looking for new plants

Use this link to connect to meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88554596572?pwd=YhSUKbrVdQ7Ypal15b6bilikKI0jh.1>



Guadalupe Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas “Plants of the Sandylands”

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2024

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

Location: St. John Lutheran Church, 600 S. Center St., Marion

Description: Andy Blair’s presentation will focus on plants and habitats associated with the Eocene sand formations in Bexar, Wilson, Guadalupe, and Caldwell Counties. We’ll discuss how the geology and soils of this area create the conditions for plant specialization and we’ll meet many of the unique plants that are endemic to these deep, sandy soils.

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



As a partner Chapter, we are preparing for the Fall Annual Meeting to be held in San Marcos. Being so close to home, this will be the perfect opportunity for all of us to attend. President Mark has already been involved in several planning meetings and is actively soliciting volunteers to help with the Conference.

Follow this link to see and sign-up for multiple volunteer opportunities.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vhtwcnzZ1OpH99uCuocCC4Qt34HolcQ31_XRCcPVuc/edit#gid=1571308030

Follow information as it becomes available at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2024-annual-meeting/>

The link below will take you to the full program, with abstracts, of the talks from the 2023 meeting.

[TXMN State Meeting 2023 Program](#)

The Natural and Unnatural History of Hornsby Bend

Date: Saturday May 18

Time: 9AM - 12PM

Description: This Advanced Training event will cover the history of Hornsby Bend on the Colorado River from early settlement to the biosolids treatment plant, the birds and opportunities for birders, along with the current research by the Austin Center for Environmental Research. It is an example of how the results of urbanization and nature can work together. We will have an opportunity for birding, but if you'd like an earlier start, the gate opens at 7 AM.

Presenting is Kevin Anderson PhD, Coordinator of the Center for Environmental Research.



Use these links to learn more about birding at [Hornsby Bend](#) and the [Center of Environmental Research](#).

Sign-up Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4DA8A723A02-48711371-athornsby#/>

Contact for Information: Jim Dyess, jnd16123@gmail.com



HAPPY ECLIPSE ON APRIL 8TH

Here's some information on the eclipse that might be of interest to you.

This site allows you to know when the eclipse comes and goes at any point. This file should take you to the learning center. Click anywhere else to see information or other locations.

http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/solar_eclipses/TSE_2024_GoogleMapFull.html?Lat=29.58953&Lng=-97.93195&Elv=163.0&Zoom=16&TZ=-5.0&LC=1

This site gives an idea as to what you will see. Being so close to totality in Seguin it will get very dark
https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse-simulator/2024/index.html?city_id=40058

This uses oreos to explain eclipses
<https://www.learningresources.com/blog/diy-lunar-eclipse-treats/>

These are from NASA
Masks that would actually protect kiddos better than just the glasses since the full paper plate protects them. If parents did the project with them they could be responsible
<https://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/lesson-plans/solar-eclipse-safety-activity>

A little science experiment. Can also listen to the birds, they will get fery confused by the sudden darkness. Roosters crow, etc.
<https://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/mini-lessonactivity/how-does-solar-eclipse-affect-air-temperature>

Pinhole projector
<https://nasa3d.arc.nasa.gov/detail/usa-eclipse-2024>

Here's the main site NASA has for educators.
<https://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/search?keys=eclipse>

Texas Wildlife and Conservation Month

Read how the idea for celebrating Texas wildlife and conservation originated in Seguin. Our March guest speaker, Pete Silvius, was instrumental in bringing the idea to State Representative John Kuempel

This link tells of how it all got started:<https://www.seguin.k12.tx.us/page/article/6673>

To read H.C.R. 77, go to this link:
<https://legiscan.com/TX/text/HCR77/id/2735515>

Making iNaturalist Observations Even More Useful



To participate in the City Nature Challenge for iNaturalist, you need to join the “City Nature Challenge 2024: San Antonio Metro Area”. To join, go to the Projects tab on your iNaturalist app or on the website. You can type in the project name and join. But did you know that there are other projects you can join on iNaturalist and make your observations even more valuable year-round?

There are twelve Texas Nature Tracker (TNT) projects. The most used are Birds, Herps, Bees and Wasps, Mammals, Milkweeds and Monarchs and Fishes of Texas.

How you can help: First, if you have not joined a TNT project you can do so by going to:

https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/projects/

Below the project picture, click on “Join this Project”. Join as many or as few as you want. After joining, you can select the project in iNaturalist to add your observations. If you would like to add previous ones, go to your observation. Select the name under your project tab which then links your observation.

Once added to the project, while the observations are always useful to TNT, they are much more beneficial if the accuracy is less than 500 m. If you take photos with your phone while in the app, the accuracy should be automatically added. However, if you select a photo from your phone photo library, this data may not be automatically populated. On your phone app, when the photo is added, it will say No location in some cases. Click on this and you can add.

For a website upload, not all cameras record a location (Not recorded) or some are greater than 500 m. You must add if your camera didn’t have GPS. To check the accuracy, click on Details below the map. You can improve your accuracy at the time you enter an observation and you can also go back to old ones. To improve/add accuracy:

Go to observation

Click on Edit

On the map zoom in until you see a circle

Click on the circle and it should allow you to shrink the size (smaller is better)

There is a project for TPWD Adopt-A-Loop in which our chapter participates in for the Great Texas Wildlife Trail (Palmetto State Park). Just join “GTWT Adopt-A-Loop”, add the observation and then under Field, select Place of Observation and the site number. Palmetto is CTC 029. Also if you do observations at Palmetto, please consider joining “Palmetto State Park, Texas Parks and Wildlife”. Park West has a project called “Park West in Seguin Flora and Fauna”. Other applicable projects to join are “Crescent Bend Nature Park” and “Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary”.

If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Cowley at ecowley@gvtc.com. Thanks for considering this!

CHAPTER CHAT

Congratulations!



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 2024

Recertifications for March 2024

Mary Habib

Sandi Wheeler

Chris Castoro

John Barrington

We have 2 newly certified Master Naturalist

Rhonda Flores and Brandon Pape

from the class of 2023

HOW TO 

Click Here **ORDER**



Thanks for your Support!

TMN License Plate

- Can be ordered on myplates.com
- FAQ on our website
- **\$30** for non-personalized OR **\$70** for personalized
- \$22 of each plate sold goes back to **TMN Program**
- <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmn-license-plate/>
- Quarterly Reports from DMV
- 647 total sold as of Q1 2024
- Need to get to 800

Tina

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson,
MarilynA@access4less.net by **Friday, April 26, 2024 for the May 2024 issue**

Officers:

President – Mark de Kiewiet
Vice-president – Susan Hanks
Secretary – Chris Dyess
Treasurer – Chris Castoro

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Committee Chairmen:

Program – Laura Griffith
Training Class – Michelle Darnell
Nature Education – Jennifer Ehlers [Seguin]
 Laura Griffith [Schertz]
Citizen Science – Sandi Wheeler
Advanced Training – Jim Dyess
Communications – Bruce Bebow
 Newsletter – Marilyn Anderson
Membership/VMS – Michelle Darnell
Fund Raising –
Marketing -
10th Chapter Anniversary Celebration -
Hospitality – Marilyn Anderson, Seguin
 Kenneth Harvey -Schertz
 Deborah Dedrick - Schertz

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<https://txmn.org/guadalupe/>
The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the
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