

Guadalupe Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

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



September 2024

Vol. 11 Issue 9

***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, September 23, 2024

Time: 6:30 PM - Social/Visiting

7:00 PM - Program

8:00 PM - Business Meeting

Location: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin

Description: Program information not available

Social time is Happy time!

We enjoy visiting and catching up on things during our pre-meeting social time. The contribution 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.

Marilyn Anderson is hospitality coordinator at the Seguin meetings.

THANK YOU
to those who consistently bring refreshments



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NATURE EDUCATION

Discover Wonderful Wetlands

Date: Saturday, September 7, 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: Learn through fun, interactive activities what a wetland really is. Discover the unique qualities of the frog while experiencing what it takes for a frog to catch its food and then hopefully, stay alive!!

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



Discover Remarkable Reptiles



Date: Saturday, September 14, 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: Reptiles are an important part of the ecosystem. Participants will learn about these essential animals and why they should be protected.

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

Garden Volunteer Day at Fischer Park Nature Center Pollinator Garden

Date: Saturday, September 7th

Time: 9:00 - 10:30 am

Location: Fischer Park, 1935 Hilltop Summit Rd., New Braunfels

Description: Come join other volunteers on the first Saturday of each month helping our pollinators have a great place to stop off for a meal. There are always tasks available for any age or ability and the garden is completely accessible. The tasks vary depending on the time of year, how many volunteers we have available and what's going on in the garden at that moment. Volunteers are provided water, gloves, and tools but you're always welcome to bring your own. The Pollinator Garden is located down the hill next to the Nature Center in New Braunfels.

Contact Carolyn Wolfer, wolfercdat@mac.com or Craig Bruska craigbruska@hotmail.com for information.

Owl Prowl at Crescent Bend Nature Park



Date: Sunday, September 22, 2024

Time: 8:30 – 9:30 pm (volunteers meet at 8:00 pm at the picnic tables next to the restrooms)

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, Schertz

Description: For all the night owls trying to beat the Texas heat, come take a nighttime stroll and see which animals come out at night. Inspired by the interests and observations of those who attend, we will expand knowledge on all types of nature from soil, plants, insects, mammals, and birds, talking about their dependence, interaction and place in preserving the nature around us. You do not need to be an expert, just need to have a willingness to talk with people about becoming a Master Naturalist and answer questions that participants might have regarding things they see during our walk. Helping with Merlin and iNaturalist is always welcome since most people aren't familiar with those apps. We'll walk about a mile, finish in about an hour and the route is completely accessible. If you don't want to lead a group you're welcome to walk with another naturalist and work together to introduce visitors to the neat things to see in Crescent Bend. I have a supply of UV and normal flashlights that we pass out to let people look for spiders and scorpions but it would be really helpful if you have some of your own to bring for your use.

Right now we ALREADY have 27 people signed up for the September walk, so we can definitely use some help!

Contact Carolyn Wolfer, wolfercdat@mac.com to volunteer.

This is the final night Owl Prowl. Sunday afternoon "Walk With a Naturalist" will be starting October 27 from 3:30 – 4:30.

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Annual Agricultural Awareness Days sponsored by the "Big Red Barn"

Dates: Monday through Thursday, [September 23 to 27](#)
Monday through Thursday, [September 30-October 3](#)
Monday through Thursday, [October 7 to 10](#)

Time: 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM Lunch provided!

Location: "**THE BIG RED BARN**" - The Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center
390 Cordova Road, Seguin

Description: We are offered a wonderful opportunity to be involved with the Annual Agricultural Awareness Days sponsored by the "Big Red Barn" every year. Over a three week period, fourth graders from most of the elementary schools in Guadalupe, Wilson, Barnes, Lavaca, Goliad and more are bused in to participate in the program. We are talking 1000's of young eager learners AND their teachers and parent sponsors.

We present about a 15 to 20 minute **lesson on the Wildlife of Guadalupe County**. The Red Barn has quite a nice display of taxidermied animals and animal hides on display in the area where we present. We have a script for volunteers to follow.



It is really nice when two Master Naturalists work together on a day so we can switch off presenting.

Different schools come each day. *We normally do five to six 15 to 20 minute sessions a day. There is always one "break" period and they provide us lunch.*

The excitement and pure joy of these fourth graders as they sometimes see or feel the hide of a wild animal for the first time in their life is worth every minute. We have the opportunity to educate so so many young people over this three week period.

Contact: Jennifer Ehlers at ehlers@gvec.net or 830-305-1352
to **sign up for this exciting teaching opportunity!**

Monarch Festival at Fischer Park

Date: Saturday, October 19, 2024

Time: 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Location: Fischer Park, 1935 Hilltop Summit Rd., New Braunfels



Description: New Braunfels Parks and Recreation team and community partners as we host a fall-themed day of fun games, crafts, exhibits and activities to celebrate the state insect of Texas, the Monarch Butterfly! We have many different volunteer shifts available, including Education, Set-up, and many others!

Sign-up to Volunteer: If you are interested, please sign-up at
<https://forms.gle/tf4WZuMEdtaHXmz57>

Google form must be filled out no later than September 27th.
We look forward to working with you!

Contact: Holly Platz, hplatz@newbraunfels.gov

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Warbler Woods Workday

Date: Saturday, October 12, 2024

Time: 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM

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

Description: Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary could use your help to maintain this premier birding location. Trimming along trails, cleaning feeders, trash pickup, and bend maintenance are all things you can help with. We may even get some birding in, too. Water will be provided. Some tools are also available but if you have your own loppers or small chain saw that would be helpful.

Contact: If you'd like to participate, please let Sandi Wheeler know at Wheels5683@gmail.com

Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Fall Cleanup

Date: Saturday, October 19, 2024

Description: Save the date for the **4th Annual Fall Cleanup - Oct 19!**

More details and registration will be available at <http://www.geronimocreek.org/> starting September 13.

Free Breakfast Tacos
Free Event Swag (t-shirts)
Trash Pickup Supplies

Park West Forest Restoration



The Forest Restoration squad is cleaning and sharpening their tools in preparation to return to work at Park West.

Dates: Thursdays, November 7, 14, 21, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – 12:00 noon

Location: Park West, 601 N. Vaughn St., Seguin

Description: Removal of invasive plants like ligustrum and bamboo will again be a priority. Great progress has been made toward restoring Park West to its original native vegetation. 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.

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

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

Contact: Nancy Masterson, nsethermasterson@gmail.com or John Barrington, freedom516@yahoo.com for information



In partnership with HEB, the Texas Forest Service is making tree saplings available to groups working to restore natives in public places. The Forest Restoration team will be receiving a supply of these saplings. Notice will be sent out when the opportunity arises for you to help in planting these trees in Park West.

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

Pollinator Garden at Park West

Dates: Mondays, September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2024

Time: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Location: Park West, 623 N. Vaughn, Seguin

Description: Please contact Liz Romero for what's happening in the garden.

Contact: Liz Romero, fleurromero@gamil.com



COMMUNITY SCIENCE

Texas Pollinator Bioblitz

Dates: October 11 – 27, 2024

Description: Pollinator BioBlitz participants observe and identify pollinators.

Mark your calendars now and get ready for some photographic fun and the opportunity to contribute to community science!

Join the fun:

- All ages and abilities are encouraged to find pollinators and nectar-producing plants and take photos to share with friends!

- Sign up for email updates during the event or for information on hosting

events: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/bioblitz/registration>.

- Find events to attend near you (please note: new events added regularly) by using our online events calendar: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/bioblitz/events>.

- You may also submit your events if your chapter is hosting a public pollinator event any time from Oct. 11-27.

- Post your pollinator photos during the event to your own Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook accounts (use #TxPollinators).

- Follow the 2024 Texas Pollinator BioBlitz event on Facebook to see daily challenges, links of interest, share your own photos, and

more: <https://www.facebook.com/events/387887267673175/>

- Be a part of community science! Add pollinator and flowering plant photos to iNaturalist during the event dates to be included in the 2024 Texas Pollinator BioBlitz iNaturalist

project: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/2024-texas-pollinator-bioblitz>.



Whether you enjoy viewing pollinator photos, honing your photography skills, learning more about pollinators in Texas, hosting public bioblitzes, or taking part in community science, we'll have something for you!

Website/Information: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/bioblitz>

Contact: Shelly Plante, Nature Tourism Manager, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department-HQ

Office: [512-389-4500](tel:512-389-4500) Cell: [512-241-9163](tel:512-241-9163)

City Nature Challenger 2025

Dates: April 24 – 28, 2025 Take pictures of wild plants and animals
April 29 – May 4, 2025 Identifying what is found
May 5, 2025 – Results of Contest Announced

Find Wildlife

It can be any plant, animal, or any evidence of life found in your city.

Take Picture

Take a picture of what you find. Be sure to note the location of the critter or plant.

Share!

Share your observations through iNaturalist or your city's chosen platform.

Website: <https://www.citynaturechallenge.org/>

ADVANCED TRAINING

Low Impact Development Workshop

Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: SISD Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center

Description: Join the Geronimo and Alligator Creek Watershed Partnership for a FREE workshop that will introduce Low Impact Development (LID) concepts and explore the design and function of rain gardens, pervious pavement, green roofs, and rainwater harvesting. **Great for anyone** looking to reduce runoff and erosion and to improve local water quality! Includes a walking tour of LID installations at the SISD Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center.

Registration is required, and seats are limited! There MAY be a few seats still available. Register today at www.geronimocreek.org

Guadalupe Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas

Date: Tuesday, September 10, 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: The Presenter will be Chapter member Craig Bruska. Craig will be presenting his efforts in creating the “Tye Preston Native Seed Library” What is a Seed Library you ask? Craig will be explaining how a Seed Library works and share the links to the Native Plant Society of Texas’ Native Plant Seed Libraries page.



Parking in the rear, enter from N. Moss Street

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



SIX FIELD TRIPS

San Antonio Audubon

1. Crescent Bend Nature Park

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM

Contact: Meet Sandi Wheeler (wheels5683@gmail.com) in the 1st parking lot. **Location:** Park address is 12780 W Schaefer Rd, Cibolo, TX 78108. Bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

2. Beginners Bird Walk at Judson Nature Trails

Date: Saturday, September 14, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM

Description: Meet leader Barbara Sykes at the Judson Nature Trails. From the 5900 block of Broadway, turn west on Ogden Street and drive to the stop sign at Greeley Street. You'll see a sign to Judson Nature Trails. Turn left, go one block and turn right on Viesca, then into parking lot on left. Bring water. Please RSVP to Barbara at jntbirding@gmail.com to let her know you'll be attending. Address is 246 Viesca Street, San Antonio, TX.

3. Crescent Bend Nature Park

Date: Sunday, October 6, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM

Contact: Meet Sandi Wheeler (wheels5683@gmail.com) in the 1st parking lot. **Location:** Park address is 12780 W Schaefer Rd, Cibolo, TX 78108. Bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

4. Beginners Bird Walk at Judson Nature Trails

Date: Saturday, October 12, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM

Description: Meet leader Barbara Sykes at the Judson Nature Trails. From the 5900 block of Broadway, turn west on Ogden Street and drive to the stop sign at Greeley Street. You'll see a sign to Judson Nature Trails. Turn left, go one block and turn right on Viesca, then into parking lot on left. Bring water.

Contact: Please RSVP to Barbara at jntbirding@gmail.com to let her know you'll be attending.

Location: Address is 246 Viesca Street, San Antonio, TX.

5. Comanche Look Out Park

Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM

Description: Meet Mariann Golden (210) 415-4661 In the parking lot Bring water. The trail partially paved. There is an increase in elevation as we get to the top of the hill. We will be looking for migrants and arriving winter birds.

Location: Comanche Lookout Park, 15551 Nacogdoches Rd., San Antonio

6. Government Canyon State Natural Area

Date: Monday October 28

Time: 8:00 AM.

Description: Meet leader Zachary Tonzetich (210-232-3670, zachary.tonzetich@gmail.com) in the parking lot near the Government Canyon Visitor's Center. Attendees are encouraged to purchase day passes ahead of time if they don't have a Texas State Parks Pass. Bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and dress appropriately (especially footwear) for rugged trails. Terrain will be uneven and rocky in some areas.

Location: Address: 12861 Galm Rd, San Antonio, TX 78254.

Honey Creek Hike

Dates: Saturdays, September 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Guadalupe River State Park, 3350 Park Rd 31, Spring Branch, TX

Description: Join us for a guided walk to the beautiful Honey Creek to learn about both the natural and cultural history of the area. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area. The trail is about 2 miles long, and moderate in difficulty -- much of it is flat but there are some rocky areas, slopes, and 2 steep but short hills. All ages are welcome. No dogs, please, except for service dogs

[Registration is required for this event.](#) Registration for each hike opens approximately 3 weeks in advance.

Contact: Brandy Hansen at honeycreekhikes@gmail.com.

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)

email: RiverRangers@SanMarcosRiver.Org

2024 Water Quality Monitoring training schedule:

Standard Core:

- Sept. 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:

- 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>



2024 Annual Meeting

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

Our Chapter will provide member support at the meeting. Volunteer to help! Contact President Mark for how to sign up and get involved in our State Annual Meeting.

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Visit the Annual Meeting site at:
<https://web.cvent.com/event/147d06eb-ec14-41ff-bc09-70cd910a0a48/summary> for all the information you need to know.

Agendas can be found at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2024-annual-meeting/> .

Registration is Open!

[Chapter Calendar](#)



Visit our chapter calendar at txmn.org/guadalupe/calendar for volunteer or advanced training opportunities.

Check back often---new items are added as we hear about them.

Need to add an event or report a change? Please send information to gmncal@guadm.org.

CHAPTER CHAT

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 June, July and August 2024

Ulli Judkins

Nancy Masterson

Craig Sagebiel

Romy Gomez

Bruce Bebow



We would especially like to thank these members for going above and beyond!

1000 Hours

Mark de Kiewiet

500 Hours

Ulli Judkins and Bobby Cowley

250 Hours

Deb Dedrick

From the class of 2023 we have three members who have completed their certification. These newly certified members will receive their name tags, T-shirts, and Certificates as the newest certified members.

Faith Norman

Krystie Miner

Sarah Stankovich

Save the Date

Class of 2024 Graduation - Celebrating our 10th Year Anniversary

When: November 16, 2024, Noon to 2:00

Where: Seguin ISD Outdoor Learning Center, 1865 US HWY 90 East, Seguin

Everyone is invited to attend the Class of 2024 Graduation. We will also be celebrating our 1st graduating class from 2014. All members are encouraged to join in this celebration! More details to follow

Chapter Gift Basket Donation for October Annual Meeting

All Chapters are asked to donate a gift basket for the Silent Auction at the State Annual Meeting. Elaine Cowley has volunteered to organize the basket from Guadalupe Chapter. However, she needs members to contribute items for the basket.

Chapters are asked to donate a minimum of \$100 in cash or items to the auction.

There are many types of items that are appropriate for the silent auction. Cash will be used to purchase attractive and relative items to be placed on the auction tables.

Below are some ideas from previous years:

- Travel packages, vouchers and gift certificates for trips, tours, experiences, hotels and sights. Local experiences are a great way to share chapter-area treasures.
- Items and gift certificates solicited from your local businesses.
- Purchased items such as outdoor gear, tools, nature guides, books about nature and generally anything related to nature.
- Hand-crafted items such as art (paintings, sculptures, framed photographs, carvings), jewelry, notecards and natural arrangements.
- Theme baskets and grouped items. These may represent your region and members may join together to complete these. Some theme ideas include coastal, birding, outdoorsy, décor items, kitchen, cooking, gardening, regional cuisine, etc.

We encourage you to use your imagination and keep naturalist themes in mind. If it's something you would like to have, other members probably would, too. Items in new condition with a value of at least \$25 may be donated. Vintage or collectible items in like-new condition with a value of at least \$25 may also be donated. We occasionally group like items together to add to the appeal!

Please bring your donations to the September 23rd meeting.

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net by **Monday, September 27, 2024** for the October 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 -	
10 th Chapter Anniversary Celebration -	
Hospitality – Marilyn Anderson, Seguin	MarilynA@access4less.net
Kenneth Harvey -Schertz	knnthdhrvy@yahoo.com
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

