

Guadalupe Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

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



November 2024

Vol. 11 Issue 11

***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, November 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

Description: Joseph Plappert, Urban Wildlife Biologist with Texas Parks & Wildlife, will speak on grass birds and their habitat.



We are
Thankful for
YOU!



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 serves as
hospitality coordinators at the Seguin meetings.

THANK YOU
to those who consistently bring refreshments



Several **EXTREMELY** important positions need new leadership.

Chapter President

Without a new President, our Chapter will take on inactive status.
Deadline is November 9 for the Nominating Committee
to announce the candidate.

Contact Tom Hardaway at 830-491-7897 or tehardaway@yahoo.com and say
“YES! I’ll lead the Guadalupe Master Naturalists”



2025 Training Class Chairman

The 2025 Training Class will be a day class held at the AgriLife Extension building in Seguin. You will have help organizing and managing the class.
Bringing new Master Naturalists into our Chapter is an
extremely fulfilling position.

Contact Michelle Darnell, outgoing chair, at mdarnelltex@gmail.com and say
“YES! I’ll lead our new Master Naturalists”



Seguin DISCOVER Program Chairman

Our very popular children’s Discover program needs a new chairman. Let’s not let this educational opportunity for children die for lack of leadership.
The event is held the first Saturday of the month [except January, August and December.] Two Master Naturalists can share the position as Co-Chairmen!

Contact Mark de Kiewiet at 210-863-8024 or mark.dekiewiet@att.net and say
“YES! I want nature education for children to continue in Seguin!”

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NATURE EDUCATION

Discover Soils

Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024

Time: staggered start times 9:30 – 10:00 AM

Location: Seguin Public Library, 313 W. Nolte



Description: What's that under your feet? SOIL – the foundation for all living things, supporting the food chain and contributing to a healthy ecosystem. Sign up to help teach children why healthy soil is essential to life.

Volunteers, please arrive at 8:30 A.M. to help set up.

Contact to Volunteer: Jennifer Ehlers [Seguin] at ehlers@gvec.net

Discover Early Texans

Date: Saturday, November 9, 2024

Time: staggered start times 9:30 – 10:00

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, 12805 Schaefer Rd., Cibolo,

Description: In early Central Texas, and Guadalupe County, children of the Tonkawa Tribe lived along waterways like the Cibolo Creek. Their lives were far different from those of children today. This lesson will teach children how early tribal children lived off the land. Sign up to be a part of this fun educational module.

Volunteers, please arrive at 8:30 A.M. to help set up.

Contact to Volunteer: Laura Griffith [Schertz] at [ljgriffith528@gmail.com](mailto:lgriffith528@gmail.com)



Walk With a Naturalist at Crescent Bend Nature Park

Date: Sunday, November 24, 2024

Time: 3:30 - 4:30 pm (volunteers meet at 3:00 pm at the picnic tables next to the restrooms)

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, Schertz

Description: | Inspired by the interests and observations of those who attend, we will expand our 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.

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Contact Carolyn Wolfer, wolfercdat@mac.com for information

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Resource Management at Park West Returns!

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

Time: 8:30 AM – 11:30 noon

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

Description: November brings cooler weather so the Resource Management team of GMN volunteers will resume their work in Seguin's Park West. Every Thursday beginning November 7, we meet at the Park West parking lot at 601 N. Vaughan Ave. at 8:30 AM and work in the forest for 3 hours. (But no workday on Thanksgiving, of course.) We take a water and chat break at 10 AM each week.

This year we have two main tasks; 1) to clear remaining ligustrum and chinaberry from the "heart of the park" and prepare it for seedling planting next year, and 2) to create a "Show 'N Tell" path from the east-side sidewalk trail toward the beautiful First Forest area and to the big pavilion. Ten years ago, First Forest was all invasives and now it's an outstanding example of a true Texas forest.

We begin each workday with signing in, quick reminders of our safety guidelines and the leaders will outline the day's tasks. First-time volunteers complete emergency contact and liability waiver forms.

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

Bring: Drinking water; Bring your own tools - lopping shears, small saws, pruners. Chain saws are particularly welcomed.

Contact: Nancy Masterson (text to 830-305-9104) or John Barrington (830-237-3544) for information

Garden Volunteer Day at Fischer Park Nature Center Pollinator Garden

Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024

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.

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, November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024

Time: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Location: Park West, 623 N. Vaughn, Seguin

Description: With the warm weather, the pollinators are still busy and flying around. And, the garden needs tending and tidying up.



Please contact Belinda Rossiter for what's happening in the garden.

Contact: Belinda Rossiter at belindarossiter@gmail.com

Native Plant Seed Cleaning

Date: Sunday, November 10, 2024

Time: 2-3:30 PM

Location: Schertz Public Library, 798 Schertz Parkway, Schertz

Description: Help spread native plants in your community by cleaning seeds that will be distributed at the Library. No experience necessary!

Contact: Craig Bruska at craigbruska@hotmail.com for information

COMMUNITY SCIENCE

Cornell Lab of Ornithology Project Feeder Watch

Date: November 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025

Description: FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. You don't even need a feeder! All you need is an area from which you like to watch birds. Plus, the schedule is completely flexible: you can count every week or once all winter, for as much or as little time as you like.

Annual participation fee \$18.

Website: <https://feederwatch.org>

City Nature Challenge 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.

In the days and months leading up to the world-wide City Nature Challenge, April 25 – 28, 2025, various nature organizations in our area plan to host events to make us all more proficient in using iNaturalist. Events will include both in the field and in the classroom activities. For the full list go to <https://cnc-sa.org/events>

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

BIRDING ADVENTURES

ADVANCED TRAINING or CITIZEN SCIENCE

Birding 101 at Palmetto State Park

Date: Saturday, November 9 and 16, 2024 [Two Saturdays]

Time: 9 – 10:00 AM

Location: Refectory building, Palmetto State Park, 78 Park Rd. 11, Gonzales, TX

Description: Enjoy hiking the trail at Palmetto with Elaine Cowley while learning techniques in bird identification. This beautiful park has so much to offer; come explore while identifying some of the Park's feathered residents.

Contact: Elaine Cowley at ecowley@gvtc.com for information



Palmetto State Park Birding and Mini Bioblitz

Date: Saturday, November 16, 2024

Time: 9 – 10:00 AM – birding
10:30 – mini bioblitz

Location: Refectory building, Palmetto State Park, 78 Park Rd. 11, Gonzales, TX

Description: Get a “two-for” on the 16th! Enjoy hiking the trail at Palmetto with Elaine Cowley while learning techniques in bird identification. After a break, you will explore this beautiful park identifying some of the Park’s flora and fauna residents. If you aren’t familiar with a bioblitz, now is your chance to get some training and practice.

Contact: Elaine Cowley at ecowley@gvtc.com for information

San Antonio Audubon Field Trips

Crescent Bend Nature Park

Date: Friday, November 1

Time: 8:00 AM

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, 12780 W Schaefer Rd, Cibolo, TX 78108

Description: Join Sandi to discover birds currently making Crescent Bend Nature Park home, or a stop-over while passing through. Novice birders are welcome as Sandi loves to share her birding knowledge with others.

Bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

Contact: Meet Sandi Wheeler (wheels5683@gmail.com) in the 1st parking lot.

Beginner’s Bird Walk

Date: Saturday, November 9, 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.

Location: Judson Nature Trails, 246 Viesca St., San Antonio

San Antonio Missions

Date: Saturday, November 16

Time: 8:00 AM

Location: Mission San Juan near Berg;s Mill, 9000101 Graf Rd., San Antonio

Contact: Meet leader Andy Garcia. For information email at andyg4957@gmail.com

Castroville Regional Park

Date: Monday, November 18

Time: 8:00 AM

Location: Parking lot, Castroville Regional Park, 816 Alsace Ave., Castroville, TX

Take US 90 West to Castroville. At the end of the Medina River bridge you enter Castroville, turn left onto Florence Street and follow the signs to the park.

Bring insect spray, sunscreen, and water.

Contact: Zachary Tonzetich, 210-232-3670, Zachary.tonzetich@gmail.com

Stinson Hike and Bike Trail

Date: Saturday, November 30

Time: 8:00 AM

Location: Meet at the trailhead across from Stinson Municipal Airport at 8535 Mission Road. We will explore the trails and head down to the San Antonio River.

Contact: Christian Fernandez, 210-415-0843

ADVANCED TRAINING

#TMNTuesday - Technical Guidance Projects Showcase

Date: Tuesday, November 12

Time: 12:00 noon

Description: Speakers will be Texas Master Naturalist Blackland Prairie Chapter, El Camino Real Chapter, Hays County Chapter, Hill Country Chapter, Piney Wood Lakes Chapter and South Texas Chapter. Join these various Texas Master Naturalist Chapters as they present on how they provide landowner and community technical guidance assistance through their specialized service projects which can be emulated and adopted by other chapters across the state!

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

Guadalupe Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas Growth and Habits of Native Yucca and Agave

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Time: 6:30 – Social time with refreshments
Plant and Seed exchange

7:00 – Program: Dr. Karen Clarey from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center will share her love of succulents and information about Yucca and Agave.

8:00 – Business Meeting

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 1121 E. Walnut, Seguin. Park in back lot off Moss St.



Honey Creek Hike

Dates: Saturdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 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:

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>



Guadalupe Chapter 10th Anniversary Family Celebration!

Saturday, November 9

3:00 – 5:30 PM

Bracken Cave Preserve, 7515 Bracken Cave Rd, San Antonio, TX

Bring your family and join us **November 9th** at the Bracken Cave Preserve for an interactive anniversary party for our chapter. 10 years and counting!

Party will be from 3:00 to 5:30 with an option to stay a little longer to view planets through a telescope and, of course, maybe see some bats!

We have a fun afternoon planned with short walking tours of the area, brilliant people full of knowledge to share, hands-on table displays to learn more about the preserve and a picnic style dinner (sandwiches/wraps, fruit and veggies, chips, cookies and waters will be provided). Be sure to complete the scavenger hunt to be entered in the drawing for prizes!

Mostly, we're looking forward to spending time together, meeting your family, getting to know some of our newest members better, and celebrating this 10-year milestone for our chapter.

Please contact Susan Hanks depositemailhere@gmail.com or Krystie Miner kminer@batcon.org if you have questions.



*Guadalupe Master Naturalist
Holiday Social/Year End Celebration*

Monday, December 9, 2024

6:30 - 9:00 PM

St. John Lutheran Church

200 S. Center St, Marion, TX

Main dishes [turkey, ham 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

FUN ACTIVITIES

DOOR PRIZES



CLASS 1 VIDEO - REMEMBRANCES OVER THE YEARS !

PLANS FOR 2025 ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Class of 2024 Graduation



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

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

Everyone is invited to celebrate 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.

Contact: Laura Griffith ljgriffith528@gmail.com for information

From Michelle Darnell:

I wanted to say thank you to the members of the 2024 Training Committee.

Having all your help is what makes this possible.

Bruce Bebow - Class Facilitator

Sandi Wheeler - Class Facilitator

Rhonda Flores - Speaker Coordinator

Melissa Moon - Mentor Coordinator

Laura Griffith - Attendance Coordinator,
certificate maker, graduation party planner!



New Certifications

2024 Rattlesnake Pin

Laura Griffith
Sharon Frels

Janet Magee
Melissa Moon



250 Hours

Craig Bruska
Belinda Rossiter



500 Hours

Chris Castoro
Carolyn Wolfer



Fun Day at the Canyon Lake Gorge

Thanks to Michelle and the Mentors for planning this relaxed time together.
Photos courtesy of Chris Castoro.



King of the Grill, Ken Harvey



Members-in-Training resting in the shade after Gorge hike

Dues for 2025!

It's time to pay your Chapter dues for the 2025 year.
The annual fee is \$25.00.

Make checks payable to Guadalupe Master Naturalists
Dues should be paid by December 31, 2024

You may pay at the meetings or mail to:
Chris Castoro, Master Naturalist Treasurer
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, TX 78155



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 gmnca@guadmn.org.

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net by Friday, **November 22, 2024** for the December 2024 issue.

Note: This is earlier than usual because of Thanksgiving week!

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 Chairs:	
Advanced Training – Jim Dyess	at@guadmn.org
Communications – Bruce Bebow	communications@guadmn.org
Calendar – Rene Harvey	gmncal@guadmn.org
Marketing – Steph Dodson	Conservation.steph@gmail.com
Newsletter – Marilyn Anderson	MarilynA@access4less.net
Community Science – Sandi Wheeler	wheels5683@gmail.com
Fund Raising – Vacant	
Hospitality – Marilyn Anderson [Seguin]	MarilynA@access4less.net
Deborah Dedrick [Schertz]	ddedrick7@gmail.com
Kenneth Harvey [Schertz]	knnthdhrvy@yahoo.com
Membership/VMS – Michelle Darnell	gmnmembers@guadmn.org
Nature Education – Jennifer Ehlers [Seguin]	ehlers@gvec.net
Laura Griffith [Schertz]	ljgriffith528@gmail.com
Programs – Laura Griffith	ljgriffith528@gmail.com
Training Class – Michelle Darnell	gmnmembers@guadmn.org
10th Chapter Anniversary Celebration – Nancy Masterson	nsethermasterson@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

