



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 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



Video - Class 1 Members Remembrances

PLANS FOR 2025 ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

RSVP SignupGenius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AADAF2DA20-52838764-guadalupe>

Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, December 4, 2024

MANY THANKS FOR 4 YEARS



Mark is “retiring” after serving our Chapter as President for the past four years. We appreciate his dedication and service not only to our Chapter, but also to the community.

Special **THANKS** to Chris Dyess who has been our Chapter secretary. She may be putting down her pen and no longer taking meeting minutes, but she will not stop doing volunteer work in the Chapter.



WELCOME NEW OFFICERS

Taking office in January 2025 will be President Craig Bruska and Secretary Belinda Rossiter. Pledge your support as they assume these new positions. We thank them for leading our Chapter for the next two years. Craig and Belinda were both members of the Class of 2023.



Seguin NATURE EDUCATION/DISCOVER Program Chairman

Nature Education is the very core of our Mission. Please consider volunteering to lead this important part of our program.

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 Craig Bruska at craigbruska@hotmail.com and say
"YES! I want nature education for children to continue in Seguin!"

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Our members have been working like busy bees!

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 November 2024

Pam Sagebiel
Annette Kowalchik
Debbie Balderaz
Faith Norman
Michelle Darnell
Susan Hanks
Brandon Pape

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bracken Cave Preserve

Dates/Times: December 4th: Butterfly Survey (12:30pm - 2:30pm)
December 17th: Butterfly Survey (12:30pm - 2:30pm)
December 19th: Legacy Tree Survey (10am - 12pm)

Location: Bracken Cave Preserve, 7515 Bracken Cave Rd., San Antonio

Contact: Krystie Miner, *Bracken Cave Preserve Project Coordinator*

→ For interested volunteers who are not on the Bracken list, please contact Krystie via email, kminer@batcon.org, at least 24 hours in advance. Thank you.

Walk With A Naturalist at Crescent Bend Nature Park

This event will pick up again in January as a Nature Scavenger Hunt. Watch for sign-up information to volunteer at Crescent Bend with this popular activity.

Wildlife & Natural Resources Committee at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo

How fun would this be?? What does this group do? The Wildlife and Natural Resources Committee produces the Texas Wildlife Expo that provides patrons an opportunity to understand, appreciate, learn to protect, and enjoy the Texas outdoors.

If interested in volunteering in this exhibit at the Stock Show and Rodeo February 6-23, 2025, contact Laura Griffith, lgriffith528@gmail.com.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Garden Volunteer Day at Fischer Park Nature Center Pollinator Garden

Date: Saturday, December 7, 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 so feel free to bring additional family members. 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. **This December we will be prepping the garden for winter by adding mulch and clipping back expired plant material.** 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.

Park West Resource Management



Left to Right Park West Volunteers
Nov 22, 2024

Dawn Durain Susan Rumsey, Craig Wagner, Belinda Rossiter, John Barrington,
Chris Dyess, Kate Schnautz, Jim Dyess, Nick Franzen
(Not pictured- Annette Kowalchik, Liz Keller, Nancy Masterson)

Resource Management Breaking Records at Park West!

During November, GMN broke the record for the largest showing of volunteers in one day at Park West. Fourteen people, all dressed for work with tools in hand on the first workday of the fall season, were followed by impressively large numbers each Thursday before the Thanksgiving break. Collectively, GMN volunteered a total of 114 hours in the Park West Forest, not counting the Citizen Science volunteers every Monday morning at the Park West Pollinator Garden.

Our Annual Plan-of-Work was submitted to the senior staff of the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Dept. and all our proposed areas of work were approved. Parks Management was particularly supportive of our plan to create a Show 'n Tell Path this year, demonstrating the difference between a ligustrum forest and a native Texas forest.

Volunteers have made tremendous headway in the “heart of the park” area, felling ligustrum and chinaberry trees, filling the Parks Dept. trailer twice each morning. Woody debris is chipped into free mulch for City residents and gardens. GMNs arrange unchippable larger logs in borders to edge the trails.

So come join us! Wear long sleeves, long pants, heavy shoes or boots, bring a hat, work gloves, water and tools such as loppers and saws. Chain saws, including battery ones, are particularly welcomed. We meet at the Park West parking lot at 601 N. Vaughan Ave. at 8:30 AM every Thursday (except Dec. 26 and Jan. 2) and work in the forest for 3 hours. We take a water and chat break at 10 AM each week. It’s fun!

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 correct opportunities

Pollinator Garden at Park West

Dates: Mondays, December 2, 9, 16, 2024

Time: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Location: Park West, 623 N. Vaughn, Seguin

Description: Cooler temperatures have finally arrived in South Central Texas, but the garden still 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, December 15, 2024

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Location: Seguin Public Library, 313 W. Nolte, Seguin

Description: This is the **kick-off event** for the Seguin Public Library, introducing the community to our seed library. This will be a seed cleaning activity and introduction of the Seed Library to the public. 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, December 7, 2024

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



San Antonio Audubon Field Trips

Crescent Bend Nature Park

Date: Sunday, December 22, 2024

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.

Honey Creek State Natural Area

Wednesday, December 4, 9:00 AM

Honey Creek State Natural Area is a designated Important Birding Area (IBA) located adjacent to Guadalupe River State Park. The trip will be an approximately 2.5-mile hike over easy to moderate terrain. Participation is limited to 12 people. Contact Sandi Wheeler, Wheels5683@gmail.com, if you'd like to attend.

Beginner's Bird Walk

Saturday, December 14, 8:00 AM

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.

Crescent Bend Nature Park

Sunday December 22, 8:00 AM

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

ADVANCED TRAINING

#TMNTuesday – Training Class Mentor Programs Showcase

Date: Tuesday, December 10

Time: 12:00 noon

Description: Many Texas Master Naturalist Chapters have mentor/mentee programs to assist new trainees as they complete their initial certification coursework, advance training, and volunteer hours. Join us as we learn about the different mentor programs conducted by the Alamo Area, Capital Area, and Lost Pines Chapters!

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

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 - Standard Core Water Quality Community Scientist 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:**
- Saturday, Dec. 07, 2024, 10AM-2PM - Standard Core @ San Marcos
- Riparian Evaluation:**
- Sunday, Dec. 08, 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>

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 Holiday party, meetings or mail to:
Chris Castoro, Master Naturalist Treasurer
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, TX 78155

Looking Ahead to January 26 Chapter Meeting

AgriLife Extension, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin

John Moretti, a doctoral candidate studying vertebrate paleontology in the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin, will speak about his research on Natural Bridge cats. Not domesticated house cats, but small wildcats, like ocelots and bobcats. They are rare, elusive, and difficult to study. Fossils of small cats are even more scarce, and those that do exist are fragmentary and incomplete. As a result, we know little about the natural history of small wildcats throughout North America. Exceptional fossil skeletons and tracks of two small cats were discovered deep inside Natural Bridge Caverns, a show cave near New Braunfels, Texas. Those specimens hold the unique potential to reveal new insights into feline history in Texas and beyond. In this talk, he will introduce you to the small wildcats of Texas and recount how a team of cavers and Moretti squeezed through narrow crawl ways and rappelled into chasms to recover these rare cat fossils from nearly 3/4 of a mile inside Natural Bridge Caverns. Those fossils are now slowly revealing their secrets and you will be among the first to hear about our latest, cutting edge research results!

This will be a great program you don't want to miss!!

Have a great idea for a Volunteer Service Project??

There is a plan for doing that. We have a new, and much needed, Volunteer Service Coordinator. Bruce Bebow will be leading the Volunteer Service committee.

Our “**Chapter Management and Operations Protocols**” outline the process for submitting a new volunteer project. This is the document that directs the operations of our Chapter. Pages 15-17 provide the information you need.

If you have never read our Chapter documents, you can find them on our Chapter website, <https://txmn.org/guadalupe/>, under **Member Tools** drop-down. Please read [1] Guadalupe Chapter Operating Handbook, [2] Guadalupe Chapter Bylaws, and [3] Chapter Management and operations Protocols.

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.

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net by Friday, **December 27, 2024 for the December 2024 issue.**

Officers:

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

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Committee Chairs:

Advanced Training – Jim Dyess
Communications – Bruce Bebow
 Calendar – Rene Harvey
 Marketing – Steph Dodson
 Newsletter – Marilyn Anderson
Community Science – Sandi Wheeler
Fund Raising – Vacant
Hospitality – Marilyn Anderson [Seguin]
 Deborah Dedrick [Schertz]
 Kenneth Harvey [Schertz]
Membership/VMS – Michelle Darnell
Nature Education – Jennifer Ehlers [Seguin]
 Laura Griffith [Schertz]
Programs – Laura Griffith
Training Class – Michelle Darnell

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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

