Guadalupe Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

https://txmn.org/guadalupe/



October 2025

Vol. 12 Issue 10

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, October 27, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM - Social/Visiting 7:00 PM - Program

8:00 PM - Business Meeting

Location: Schertz Area Senior Center, 608 Schertz Parkway, Schertz

Description: TBD – email notification will be sent once speaker is confirmed



Pre-meeting social time will begin at 6:30.
Arrrive early to visit with your fellow
Master Naturalists, meet Members-inTraining and enjoy refreshments.

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 Dedrick serve as hospitality coordinators for the Schertz meeting.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NATURE EDUCATION

Discover Bird Beaks

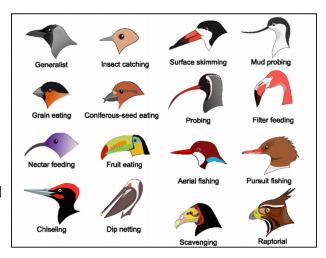
Date: Saturday, October 11, 2025

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

Volunteers, please arrive at 8:30 A.M. Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, Schertz

Description: The basic idea is this: students use different "beaks" (e.g., chopsticks, tweezers), to pick up different "food sources" (pasta, seeds, peas). Throughout this process, students figure out which beak is the best for "catching" each food.

This is a fun and hands-on way to experience competition between species and learn about natural selection and animal adaptations. Children will experience first-hand how specialized beaks can help birds quickly gather the most food and outcompete other types of birds.



Contact: Laura Griffith at ligriffith528@gmail.com for information and to volunteer.

<u>Please sign up using the link below. Please note that for each current student we need one certified TMN.</u>

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48AAAD2AABFE3-58904512-discover

Walk With a Naturalist at Crescent Bend Nature Park

Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025

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: Now that we're moving into the fall, it's time for us to transition back to our daytime Walk With A Naturalist. 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 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.

Contact Carolyn Wolfer, <u>wolfercdat@mac.com</u> for information and to volunteer with this popular program.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Congratulations to us! The Guadalupe Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists has been awarded an <u>H-E-B Trees For Texans</u> grant to plant trees in Park West. We asked for \$4,313.45 to buy, plant and care for 125 seedlings and 6 large trees, so we will <u>start on site preparation at 8:30 AM-11:30 AM on Thursday</u>.

October 16, 2025. We'll continue site prep on Thursday mornings Oct. 23 and 30, then start planting in November. Meet at the Park West Parking Lot, 601 N. Vaughn Street, Seguin.

The 6 large trees will be Pecans, White Oaks, Cedar Elm and Anaqua. The 125 little trees will be Bur Oaks, White Oaks, Pecans, Eve's Necklace, Texas Redbuds and our own Black Walnuts. We collected the walnuts last year from Park West and Rick Ehlers Tree Farm raised them.

All volunteers should wear long sleeves, long pants and heavy shoes and bring tools such as loppers or trimmers, plus gloves, a hat, and water. We are proud of Texas Black Walnut our 10-year safety record, so at our first workday in October, we will sign or review Liability Waivers, explain our work-site map, discuss tool care, herbicide protocols, and invasive/native plant identification. And, of course, we'll take our 10 AM water-and-conversation break. Most importantly, before we proceed to the 13 Oaks area to begin site preparation, we will review the watering commitments needed for the little seedlings. (The City Parks crew will be responsible for watering the 6 large trees.)

A "Golden Shovel" showcase planting is planned for Thursday, Nov. 6 at 11 AM. H-E-B managers and employees, the City Parks Dept. leadership, the Seguin City Council, the Seguin Youth Soccer board, the Texas Forest Service, members of the media and YOU, all the Guadalupe Master Naturalists and trainees, will be invited to attend. There's even a possibility the H-E-B Buddy will come!

Fall Stream Clean-up - Geronimo/Alligator Creeks

Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 **Time:** 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Locations:

Seguin - Seguin ISD Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center

(1865 E US Highway 90, Seguin)

New Braunfels – Oak Creek Elementary School (3060 Goodwin Ln, New Braunfels)

Go to:

https://geronimocreekwatershed.org/fall-streamcleanup/ for information and registration

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



Schertz Pollinator Garden - NEW Opportunity

Dates: Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Time: 8:30 – 11:30 AM

Location: 1101 Elbel Rd., Schertz [behind the Guadalupe County Clerk's Office (Annex)

Description: The Schertz Pollinator Garden was installed by the Guadalupe Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) in 2011-12 as a demonstration garden and habitat for pollinators.



This garden displays native plants in a semi-natural way, allowing them to achieve their natural shape and size (mostly). Plants are left as habitat during the winter and trimmed before spring growth.

The NPSOT team would appreciate the help of Master Naturalists several days a year (mostly in the spring, but there are a couple of fall dates scheduled) to prune plants and remove weeds.

Volunteers should bring their own weeding/pruning tools, gloves, and water.

This project qualifies for volunteer hour credit in VMS, in the category of "NPA: Chapter approved."

Contact: Questions?? Please contact Belinda Rossiter (belindarossiter@gmail.com or 713-248-2001)

Park West Pollinator Garden

Date: Mondays, October 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025

Time: 8:30 – 10:00 AM [or later]

Location: Park West, 601 N. Vaughn, Seguin



Description: Earn volunteer hours by helping to maintain the garden for the many pollinators who are visiting. Volunteers should dress for gardening work including gloves and a hat and bring a rake, clippers and water.

Contact: Please RSVP to Belinda Rossiter (belindarossiter@gmail.com or 713-248-2001)

Garden Volunteer Day at Fischer Park Nature Center Pollinator Garden

Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025

Time: 9:00 - 10:30 am

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

The Pollinator Garden is located down the hill next to the Nature Center

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. Volunteers are provided water, gloves, and tools but you're always welcome to bring your own.

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

Native Seed Library Events

Earn Volunteer Time while enjoying the cool A/C and the company of fellow Master Naturalists at the public libraries. No experience necessary in cleaning, sorting and packaging valuable native seeds.

Sat., 10/11/2025	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Seguin Public Library Downstairs meeting room	Belinda Rossiter belindarossiter@gmail.com
Sun., 10/12/2025	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Marion Community Library	Susan Hanks depositemailhere@gmail.com
Sat., 10/18/2025	11:30 AM <i>-</i> 1:30 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Schertz Public Library, Rm 2 [children's library]	Milda Scott mldsct@gmail.com

Kirchoff Prairie Restoration

This volunteer opportunity does not have a set date as it's dependent on when Don needs help with projects. If interested, I'll add your name to his mailing list so you can be notified when a workday is set up. Workdays occur usually two or three times a month; you can participate as much or as little as you want. These tasks are generally labor intensive, such as removing huisache, planting native vegetation, cutting back trees and maintaining/installing owl and bird boxes. The Kirchoff Prairie is located at 1444 County Rd 210, Floresville, TX [around Dewees.]

<u>Contact:</u> Carolyn Wolfer, <u>wolfercdat@mac.com</u> for information or (713) 562-768.



New Braunfels Parks and Recreation team and community partners 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

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 currect opportunities

CITIZEN SCIENCE

10th Annual Texas Pollinator BioBlitz

Date: October 10 – 26, 2025

Description: Sponsored annually by Texas Parks and Wildlife, the BioBlitz encourages people of all ages and abilities to find pollinators and nectar-producing plants across Texas to add to the world-wide community science database. You can also share your photos on the Instagram and Facebook pages for the event.

To learn more about the BioBlitz go to https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/bioblitz. Pollinator observation challenges and informative links will be emailed to all registered participants, https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/bioblitz/registration

To register for the Texas Pollinator Bio Blitz in INaturalist go to https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/2025-texas-pollinator-bioblitz

Chapter events are found in the newsletter . TPWD also has events on its biobliitz webpage. You can also participate on your own in a local park or other green space. Time spent participating in the bioblitz is considered volunteer hours and should be recorded in VMS as FR: INaturalist.

Texas Pollinator BioBlitz at Palmetto State Park

Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025 **Time:** 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Location: Meet at the Refectory, Palmetto State Park, 78

Park Rd 11, Gonzales, TX. Park entry fee required, so stop by

the park office before going to Refectory.



Description: Join Guadalupe Master Naturalist, Elaine Cowley, at Palmetto to document pollinators and nectar-producing plants using iNaturalist. Everyone is welcome regardless of experience with INaturalist. Attendees will need to have the free iNaturalist app on their phones and join the "2025 Texas Pollinator Bioblitz" project. If you aren't familiar with a BioBlitz, now is your chance to get some training and practice.

Bring water, sunscreen and insect repellent

Contact: Elaine Cowley at ecowley@gvtc.com or 432-559-5101 for information. Guadalupe Master Naturalist VMS Code: FR iNaturalist

<u>Fall Migratory Bird Survey at Kirchoff Prairie</u> San Antonio Chapter – Native Prairies Assn. Of Texas

Date: Saturday, October 11, 2025

Time: 7:30 – 11:00 AM

Location: Kirchoff Family Farm, 1444 CR 210, Floresville, TX

Description: Experience fall migration at Kirchoff Prairie during a morning of bird surveys led by

experts from the Bexar Audubon Society.

Arrive at 7:30 AM to connect with fellow bird enthusiasts before teams are formed to survey designated 50-acre areas from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Afterward, findings will be shared over lunch to conclude the day.

Kirchoff Prairie provides an ideal setting to observe migratory bird species as they journey south for the winter. This restored Blackland prairie offers critical habitat for a variety of grassland birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, reflecting years of dedication to conservation.

Please RSVP here:

https://www.tickettailor.com/events/nativeprairiesassociationoftexas/1554408

Moth Night BioBlitz at Bracken Bat Cave

Date: Monday, October 13, 2025

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Location: Bracken Bat Cave

Description: Bat Conservation International is hosting a mothing event at the Bracken Bat Cave to document night time pollinators and other nocturnal insects using iNaturalist. Attendees will need to have the free iNaturalist app on their phones and join the "2025 Texas Pollinator Bioblitz" project.

Flashlights are recommended.

Contact: To attend email Krystie Miner at kminer@batcon.org

Guadalupe Master Naturalist VMS Code: FR iNaturalist

<u>Birding Crescent Bend Nature Park</u> Bexar Audubon South Central Texas Chapter of National Audubon Society

Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025

Time: 8:00 – 11:00 AM

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, 12780 W Schaefer Rd,. Schertz, TX

Description: Meet leader Sandi Wheeler at the parking area near the restrooms at 8:00 AM. You will walk on easy gravel and paved paths and visit the two bird blinds looking for summer species and early fall migrants. The park is made up of wooded areas and open fields along Cibolo Creek and a variety of species are possible.

Bring binoculars, water, and sun/insect protection. Wear neutral colored clothing, close-toed shoes, and a hat.

Please check the weather forecast the day before the outing to assess the potential for extreme temperatures and/or precipitation. Prepare accordingly. Check your email the day before the outing in case the outing had to be canceled due to weather.

Mostly easy; areas around creek moderate; Distance: About 1.6 miles; Restrooms available.

Guadalupe Master Naturalist VMS: FR Chapter Approved or AT Chapter Approved: TMN AT Report Hours

Sign up: https://bexaraudubon.org/3174-2/?sheet_id=246

Leader: Sandi Wheeler, 210-632-2812 wheels5683@gmail.com

Canyon Lake Gorge BioBlitz

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Canyon Lake Gorge

Description: The goal of the spring / fall BioBlitz is to track long term successional changes to the

gorge.

Contact: Craig Bruska

Birding 101 Walk at Palmetto State Park

Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Location: Meet at the Refectory, Palmetto State Park, 78 Park Rd. 11, Gonzales, TX

Description: Help kick-off the first of the season birding walk. Enjoy hiking the trails at Palmetto

with Elaine Cowley while learning techniques in bird identification.

Bring water, sunscreen and insect repellent

Contact: Elaine Cowley at ecowley@gvtc.com or 432-559-5101 for information.

Park entry fee required; stop by park office prior to going to Refectory

If you are using for <u>Community Science hours</u> (VMS Code FR - Chapter Approved), we will be using eBird to record the species seen so be sure to create your own free account at ebird.org. <u>Advanced Training hours</u> if you have not previously attended this walk.

ADVANCED TRAINING

Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival

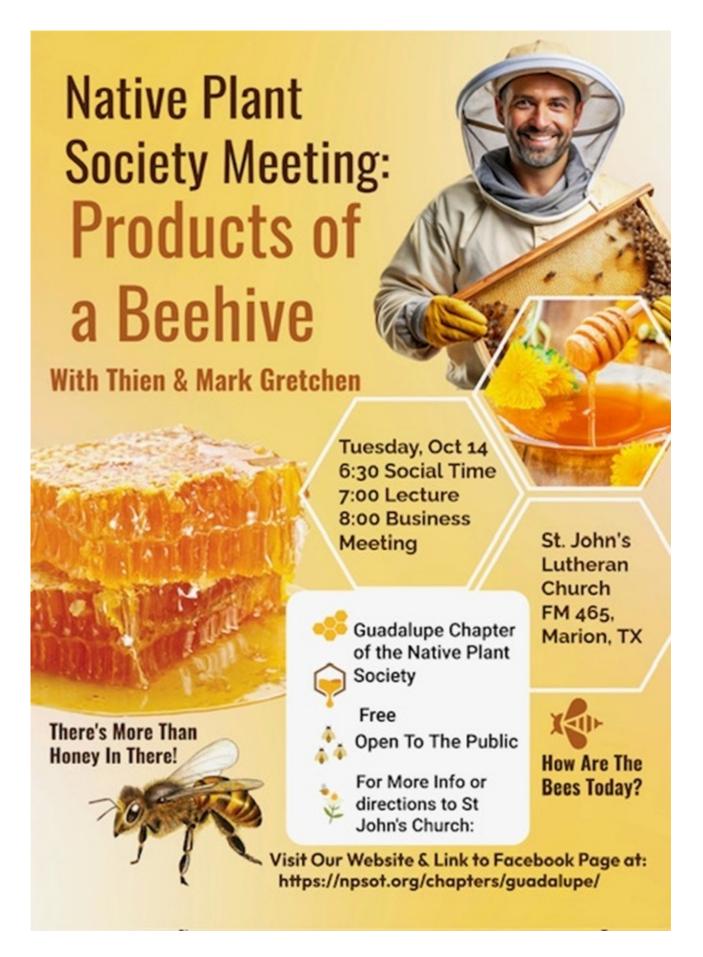
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Brackenridge Park in San Antonio, right next to Zoo entrance

Description:

Over 30 educational partners will provide hands-on, nature-based experiences for children and adults. The mission of the Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival is to celebrate and educate our community about the monarch butterfly, pollinators, and the ecosystems that sustain both them and us. To find out more, go to https://do210.com/events/2025/10/18/monarch-butterfly-pollinator-festival-tickets and https://www.bloomingwithbirdie.com/monarchfest



<u>Trees of Hope – Austin Chapter, NPSOT</u>

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM - speaker

Location: ZOOM – register at https://npsot-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/oip-

DWzCTdWerBs77KxMKg#/registration

Description: Drought, water restrictions and intense winter storms, oh my! Are you ready to plant some new native trees in your landscape? Looking to replace dead or fallen trees with natives that are beautiful to experience and vital to the wildlife in your neighborhood? Please join us as we discuss a wide variety of native trees including canopy and understory trees. You will learn tree characteristics, preferred growing conditions and how your tree choice can leave a legacy to the people and wildlife around you. Trees of Hope class offers choices so you can feel empowered to make a positive change in your yard, to better our community.

◆ This program will also be available at the Lindheimer Chapter meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Tye Preston Memorial Library, 16311 S. Access Road, Canyon Lake, Texas

78133. All presentations are available via Zoom https://lindheimerchapternpsot.org/?

page id=1585

Drought-tolerant Native Texas Plants

Date: Tuesday, October 7. 2025

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: ZOOM - https://tinyurl.com/yn85nbzd

Meeting ID: 885 5459 6572 / Passcode: 571904)

Description: Presented by Randy Pensabene, he will guide us through the native plants and practices that will help turn your yard from a typical high-water, non-native landscape into a

beautiful, low-water, drought-tolerant native Texas landscape.

The Damming of Texas

Bexar Audubon South Central Texas

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM – ZOOM

Location: Join Zoom Meeting at 6:30 pm

Link website: https://bexaraudubon.org/meetings-events/

Meeting ID: 897 9557 3998

Passcode: 467829

Description: Because Texas is so big and diverse, we have long taken its vast resources for granted and thought them unlimited. Water—or the lack of it—blew away that myth. The drought of the 1950s was the greatest environmental disaster to ever affect Texas, and the response to that disaster was the greatest engineering feat ever accomplished within our state's borders—from almost no reservoirs before the drought to 196 major reservoirs today. This effort brought water from seemingly nowhere to everywhere and everybody. It has made the Texas we know today, but it came at a great cost to our fish, our wildlife, and our birds. It dramatically changed the face and future of our state, especially our coast. This talk looks at how that happened, what it means today, and the challenges we face in assuring the future health and productivity of our environment and the ecosystems that form it, especially our coast.



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.

Link to registration information: https://txmn.tamu.edu/2025-annual-meeting/#Registration

Registration for the Texas Master Naturalist 2025 Annual Meeting will open the first week of August.

View Agenda: https://txmn.tamu.edu/2025-annual-meeting/#Agenda



Guadalupe Chapter Welcomes New Class of Texas Master Naturalists

By Jenn Jontry, Member-in-Training

On August 5, 2025, the Guadalupe Chapter proudly launched its newest cohort of Texas Master Naturalists, welcoming nineteen dedicated students. The new class of students are eager to deepen their understanding of the natural world through participation in environmental stewardship, education, volunteerism, and community engagement.

The inaugural session introduced students to the rich history of the Master Naturalist program, both statewide and within Guadalupe County, setting the stage for camaraderie and mutual learning. Each student presented their unique background, interests, and reasons for enrolling, offering a glimpse into the motivations that fuel this community. Joseph Plappert of TPWD spoke about the vital partnership between the agency and the program, underscoring how collaboration strengthens conservation efforts in Texas.

Subsequent classes have been equally engaging. Mary Habib offered insights and skills in interpretation, preparing students for effective communication with diverse audiences. Joseph Plappert returned to discuss legal and ethical standards essential for public interaction, ensuring volunteers act responsibly and respectfully in their roles.



The exploration of citizen science opportunities in the third class, led by Sandi Wheeler, revealed avenues for participation in research and monitoring projects, among others. Next, a practical workshop on the Volunteer Management System (VMS), facilitated by Michelle Darnell, demystified the process of recording volunteer activities, making it easier for these new members to track their contributions. Huge thanks to chapter veterans who turned out to assist, making this portion of the training a breeze.

GMN class of 2025 at Moody Science Hall, TLU Photo by Belinda Rossiter

In class four, held at Texas Lutheran University's Moody Science Hall, Dr. Alan Lievens captivated attendees with an illuminating lecture on botany and the ever-evolving science of plant taxonomy. The excitement continued with hands-on examination of plant specimens under dissecting microscopes, bringing textbook concepts vividly to life.

As this dedicated group progresses, their blend of curiosity and commitment promises to enrich the Guadalupe County chapter. The Texas Master Naturalist program remains a beacon for those wishing to connect with, understand, and protect the environment — an adventure that, for these nineteen newcomers, is just beginning.

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

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

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net by Friday, October 24 for the November 2025 issue.

Officers:

President – Craig Bruska Vice-president – Susan Hanks Secretary – Belinda Rossiter Treasurer – Chris Castoro

Committee Chairs:

Advanced Training – Jim Dyess Communications – Bruce Bebow Calendar – Renee Harvey Marketing – Mia Luciano Newsletter – Marilyn Anderson Community Science – Sandi Wheeler Fund Raising - OPEN Hospitality – Marilyn Anderson [Seguin]

Deborah Dedrick [Schertz] Kenneth Harvey [Schertz] Membership/VMS – Michelle Darnell

Nature Education - OPEN - Seguin

Laura Griffith [Schertz]

Programs – Deborah Dedrick

Resource Management – Nancy Masterson John Barrington

Training Class – Michelle Darnell Volunteer Service – Bruce Bebow craigbruska@hotmail.com depositemailhere@gmail.com belindarossiter@gmail.com ccastoro1340@gmail.com

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https://txmn.org/guadalupe/ The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife

