

# Guadalupe Chapter

## Texas Master Naturalist

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



November 2025

Vol. 12 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 24, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 PM - Social/Visiting  
7:00 PM - Program  
8:00 PM - Business Meeting

**Location:** Agri-Life Extension, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin

**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-in-  
Training 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.

Marilyn Anderson serves as  
hospitality coordinator for the Seguin meeting.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### NATURE EDUCATION

#### Discover Nature Journaling

**Date:** Saturday, November 8, 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:** Participants will learn how real naturalists record and remember experiences in the natural world.



**Contact:** Laura Griffith at [ljgriffith528@gmail.com](mailto:ljgriffith528@gmail.com) for information and to volunteer.

#### Nature Scavenger Hunt at Crescent Bend Nature Park

This event does not occur in November or December due to the holidays. Please join us in January.

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

#### Park West Pollinator Garden

**Date:** Mondays, November 3, 10, 17, 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](mailto:belindarossiter@gmail.com) or 713-248-2001)

#### Native Seed Library Events

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

Sat., 11/08/2025	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Seguin Public Library Downstairs meeting room	Belinda Rossiter <a href="mailto:belindarossiter@gmail.com">belindarossiter@gmail.com</a>
Sun., 11/09/2025	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Marion Community Library	Susan Hanks <a href="mailto:depositemailhere@gmail.com">depositemailhere@gmail.com</a>
Sat., 11/15/2025	11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Schertz Public Library, Rm 2 [children's library]	Milda Scott <a href="mailto:mldsct@gmail.com">mldsct@gmail.com</a>

## **Celebrating Park West's Trees**

Eleven years ago our new chapter had a dream; that the 48-acre Park West in Seguin, would someday be a true Texas forest instead of a monoculture of invasive plants. And we are making it so!

Come celebrate on Thursday November 6 at Park West, 601 N. Vaughan Ave., Seguin, to celebrate our first tree-planting, hear congratulations from our Mayor, City Councilman, H-E-B Trees for Texans, Texas Forest Service and our own Seguin Parks and Recreation Dept. Please come at 9 AM, the dignitaries arrive at 10:30 and the tree-planting ceremony will be at 11 AM, followed by light refreshments. Some could offer tours of the Thirteen Oaks area where we will plant over 100 seedlings.

The big shade trees are 1 Anaqua, 2 Pecans (Caddo and Kanza), 2 Cedar Elms, 2 Monterey Oaks. Then our work begins!

During November and December, we will plant and water 86 Texas Forest Service seedlings of 25 Bur Oaks, 25 Monterey Oaks, 15 Pecans, and 40 of our own Black Walnuts from seeds we gathered at Park West. We'll also plant small flowering trees of 14 Eve's Necklace and 7 Texas Redbuds.

Here's our schedule of Resource Management volunteer days:

**Planting/Watering:** Thursdays 8:30-11:30 AM; **Nov. 13, 20, Dec. 4, 11, 18**

**Watering:** Saturdays 9-10:30 AM; **Nov. 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 20**

**Watering:** Mondays 9:30-10 AM **Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 8, 15**

**Watering:** January 8:30-11:30: we drop to **once a week on Thursdays** Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

**Watering:** February, March, April, May: **every other week on Thursdays**

**Watering:** June to November 2026: **once a month**

So come plant a tree with us! We hope to get all the seedlings planted by December 18. So when you come, dress for outdoor work, bring a shovel and drinking water for yourself...and a gallon of tapwater for the little trees!

John Barrington and Nancy Masterson are co-chairs of Resource Management and will arrange for additional watering over the holidays. Nancy sends reminder texts; let her know you're coming at 830-305-9104.



## **They're Here**

Forest Restoration Co-chairs Nancy Masterson and John Barrington picked up the 86 trees for Park West. Varieties are Monterey Oaks, Bur Oaks, Pecans, Eve's Necklace and Texas Redbuds. We'll add our own Black Walnut seedlings that Ehlers Tree Farm has raised from nuts collected at Park West by GMN volunteers.

Guadalupe Master Naturalists will start planting and watering in November.





**You're Invited**

**to the**

# **Golden Shovel Tree Planting Ceremony**

**Join us at Park West  
601 N. Vaughan Avenue, Seguin**

**Thursday, November 6, 2025 @ 10:30am**

**Ceremony will start at 11:00am**

The Guadalupe Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists are thrilled to announce that we've partnered with H-E-B and Texan by Nature to plant 132 trees at Park West!

With this partnership, we're connecting communities to nature with opportunities for hands-on conservation. Please join us for this ceremonial tree-planting event alongside H-E-B partners in Seguin where we'll plant a ceremonial tree.

**Light refreshments will be provided.**

*We look forward to celebrating with you  
as we plant trees for a greener future!*

**Please wear your Master Naturalist t-shirt to the Golden Shovel celebration**

## **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.]

Contact: If you're interested in helping bring a blackland prairie back to life, please contact Carolyn Wolfer at [wolfercdat@mac.com](mailto:wolfercdat@mac.com) and she will add you to the notification emails.

## **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

## **CITIZEN SCIENCE**

### **Birding 101 Walk at Palmetto State Park**

**Date:** Saturday, November 8, 2025  
November 22, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

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

**Description:** Enjoy hiking the trails at Palmetto with Elaine Cowley while learning techniques in bird identification.

Bring: Binoculars (if you have), bug spray, and water

**Contact:** Elaine Cowley at [ecowley@gvvc.com](mailto:ecowley@gvvc.com) or 432-559-5101 for information.

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



Sign-up is not required but please consider reaching out to Elaine via email if you plan to attend so if there is a change in plans, she can let you know. Alternatively, you can text or call her the day before for any updates.

If you are using for [Community Science hours](#) (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](http://ebird.org).

| [Advanced Training hours](#) if you have not previously attended this walk.

## **Project Feederwatch**

**Date:** Begins Saturday, November 1, 2025.

**Description:** A Cornell Lab of Ornithology community science project, FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. Because the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a non-profit organization supported primarily by participant and membership fees there is annual participation fee is \$18 for U.S. residents.



To participate you choose two consecutive days as often as once a week and count the birds in your backyard, a local park, or other location. It's recommend to leave at least five days when you do not count between each of your two-day counts. Counting less often is fine. Even if you only count once all season, your data are valuable.

For more information on the project go to <https://feederwatch.org/about>

VMS: FR:Chapter Approved

## **Crescent Bend Nature Park Bird Survey**

**Date:** Thursday, November 20, 2025

**Time:** 8:00 AM

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

**Description:** Join Sandi Wheeler to survey the park looking for lingering fall migrants and winter arrivals. The park is made up of wooded areas and open fields along Cibolo Creek and a variety of species are possible. We will be using ebird to record the species seen so be sure to create your own account at ebird.org.

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

## **ADVANCED TRAINING**

### **TMNTuesday**

**Date:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025 [*Note: not the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday*]

**Time:** 12:00 – 1:00 PM

**Location:** <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>

**Description:** Visit website above for program description

## **Rooted in Nature: Composting and Native Flora of Texas**

### **Guadalupe Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas**

**Date:** Tuesday, November 11, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 PM – Refreshments

7:00 PM Program

**Location:** First Presbyterian Church, 1121 E. Walnut [parking lot behind church off N. Moss St.]

**Description:** Speaker Peter Hernandez will describe how healthy soil is the foundation of a thriving Texas landscape. Join us to explore how composting transforms everyday kitchen and yard waste into a powerful resource for your garden.

Peter will highlight native plants that flourish in compost-amended soils—from prairie blooms to pollinator favorites—and share practical tips for using compost wisely without overwhelming drought-tough species. Whether you're new to gardening or a seasoned naturalist, this program offers down-to-earth ways to conserve water, support wildlife, and stay rooted in nature.

### **2025 Virtual Birding Seminar - Create a Backyard Bird Paradise**

**Dates:** Wednesday and Thursday, November 19 & 20, 2025

**Description:** See website

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=828338&language=eng> for information



## **Training Class News**

The 2025 Training Class will complete their course in two more weeks! It's been an exciting time for all involved and our new trainees have done a fabulous job. They will explore the Canyon Lake Gorge on November 1 and enjoy a picnic lunch. One more classroom lesson before the last class and graduation celebration at the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center on Saturday, November 15.

A graduation lunch will be held to celebrate their accomplishments. Any Master Gardener [not associated with the class] who is planning to attend the graduation lunch needs to RSVP Marilyn at [MarilynA@access4less.net](mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net).

# Chapter News

## Recertifications for October 2025

Congratulations to these members who recorded all their hours and achieved their recertification for 2025.

John Barrington	Deb Dedrick
Nick Franzen	Laura Griffith
Mary Habib	Susan Hanks
Melissa Moon	Kate Schnautz

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A special thank you to our members who have recorded a record number of hours.

### 250 Hours

**Lisa Walker**

### 1000 Hours

**Jennifer Ehlers**

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Our 2024 training class is still making great strides towards their certification.

We have three newly certified Guadalupe Master Naturalist

**Cristian Roma, David Humphrey and Pat Hartley**  
have completed their Initial certification

From the Class of 2024, we have another  
Double Certification to Award  
**Ruth Kneupper**

If you have not collected your pins, awards, or certificates  
for past accomplishments, you will be able to pick them up at the meeting.





Photography: *Plants & Fungi*

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

TMN Annual Meeting Photography Contest

**Shelter**

By Elaine Cowley

Guadalupe

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## *New Officer Election*

*Our Chapter will elect two positions, Vice-President and Treasurer, at the November Chapter meeting. Immediate Past President Mark deKiewiet is chairman of the Nominating Committee.*

*If you are willing to assume one of these positions, please contact Mark at [mark.dekiewiet@att.net](mailto:mark.dekiewiet@att.net). Perhaps you know a member who would make a good candidate; if so, refer the name to Mark.*

*We have many members who would make excellent officers. Please consider assuming one of these two important roles in our Chapter.*

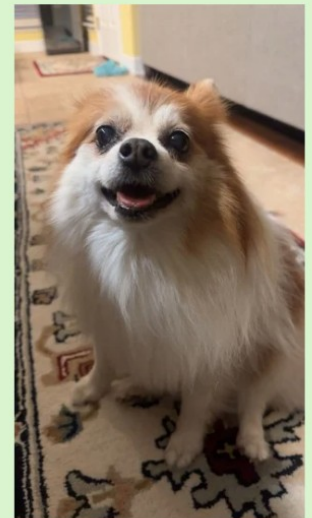
## NEW PARK INTERPRETER FOR PALMETTO STATE PARK

Hello Palmetto Team,

It is with great pleasure I introduce to you our new Park Interpreter, Skylit McWhorter. She comes to TPWD with plenty of experience in recreation and interpretive programming. She enjoys getting outdoors and sharing her passion for special places and things with visitors. I have no doubt that will be recognized right away. She is excited for this new journey and is eager to get started here at Palmetto State Park. Her first day will be Tuesday next week!

Welcome SKY!

Thank you,  
Nathan Reynolds, Park Superintendent  
Palmetto State Park



**Hi! My name is Skylit McWhorter. Most people call me Sky. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from UTSA. I interned at Guadalupe River State Park in 2024. Some of my favorite hobbies include hiking, playing with my two dogs, and trying new restaurants and coffee shops. I am very excited to start this role as an interpreter with State Parks.**

**We welcome Sky and look forward to working with her at Palmetto**



## Holiday Party

**Monday, December 15**

**6:30 PM**

**St. John Lutheran Church, Marion**

Believe it or not, the holidays are quickly approaching. Plan now to join your Master Naturalist friends for good food and fellowship. Formal invitation with details coming soon. Help is needed to:

- 1] set up tables and chairs
- 2] organize the serving tables
- 3] put tables and chairs away and clean up

**It requires many people volunteering to get everything done.**

**Please email Marilyn at [MarilynA@access4less.net](mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net) and say, "Yes, I want to help make our party a success!"**



## CHAPTER DUES

**2026 Yearly dues of \$25.00 may be paid to Treasurer Chris Castoro at the November meeting or the December Holiday**

**Party. You may also mail to:**

**Chris Castoro, Treasurer  
Guadalupe Master Naturalists  
210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, TX 78155**





## Chapter Calendar



Visit our chapter calendar at [txmn.org/guadalupe/calendar](https://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 [gmncl@guadmn.org](mailto:gmncl@guadmn.org).**

**Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, [MarilynA@access4less.net](mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net) by **Tuesday, November 25** for the December 2025 issue.**

### **Officers:**

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

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### **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

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