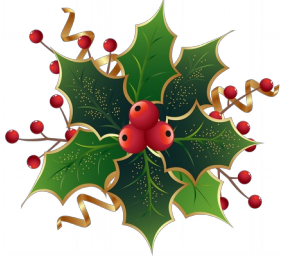




***Mission.** To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.*



***Guadalupe Master Naturalist  
Holiday Social/Year End Celebration  
Monday, December 15, 2025  
6:30 – 9:00 PM  
St. John Lutheran Church  
200 S. Center St, Marion, TX***

Main dishes [turkey and ham] and Vegan entree provided by Chapter

Bring a dish of your choice to share – salad, vegetable or dessert  
[Please identify as gluten-free, vegetarian or vegan, if applicable, for dietary restrictions]

Tea/Water provided

(feel free to bring other drinks, just no alcohol per the event location)

**Please go to the Signup Genius below to RSVP and volunteer to help**

RSVP Signup Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AADAF2DA20-60233299-christmas>

Helper Signup Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AADAF2DA20-60277003-christmas>

**Come have Fun with your Master Naturalist Friends**



**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!”**

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### NATURE EDUCATION

Nature Education is taking a break. Laura and Carolyn will be back in 2026 looking to you for volunteer help.

**A Nature Education Chairperson is needed in Seguin.** PLEASE consider taking leadership of this vital opportunity to share nature experiences with the Seguin community. Our Mission states we are "*volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service.*" Let's fulfill this mission and bring Nature Education back to Seguin.

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

#### Park West Pollinator Garden

The garden is resting until Spring.



### 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.

01/10/26	1-3:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Seguin Public Library tech lab	Belinda Rossiter <a href="mailto:belindarossiter@gmail.com">belindarossiter@gmail.com</a>
01/18/26	1-3:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Schertz Library Mtg. Rm 1	Milda Scott <a href="mailto:mldsct@gmail.com">mldsct@gmail.com</a>

## What a Day, What a Month!

On Thursday November 6 at Park West, we celebrated our first tree-planting and heard congratulations from our Mayor, City Councilman, H-E-B Trees for Texans, Texas Forest Service and the Seguin Parks and Recreation Dept. Nineteen (19!) of us posed for Ken Harvey's photography. The 7 large shade trees between the soccer fields are Pecans, White Oaks, Cedar Elms and Anaqua.

Next, on Thursday Nov. 13, fourteen Master Naturalists (14!) turned out for the first planting of 20 Texas Forest Service seedlings. Vols brought wagons, shovels, and extra water for the trees. We trundled like a little parade with 6 wagons of mulch, water and lots of tools. We started slow, with a lesson, then picked up the pace and spacing from the tip of the forest nearest the playscape, to the edge of the clearing by Soccer Corner. MN's watered faithfully on Saturday and Monday.

We planted 26 more on Nov. 20, 18 more on Nov. 22, and 19 more trees on Nov. 26, bringing our total up to 83 trees planted. Watering three times a week is heavy duty, but our team works find the little trees in the forest and get a gallon of water to them. Sharon Frels created a SignUpGenius for volunteers for Park West, since the next 2 months weeks require a lot of watering hours. By the end of January we'll be down to once a week.

The Resource Management co-chairs, Nancy Masterson and John Barrington, are deeply grateful for the support and hard work of so many Guadalupe Master Naturalists. We've reported 180.5 volunteer-hours to the Seguin Parks and Recreation Dept during the month of November!

So come plant a tree with us! When you come, dress for outdoor work, bring a shovel and drinking water. December planting dates are 8:30-noon **Thursday, Dec 4** for 21 black walnut trees and **Saturday, Dec. 6** for the last 21 seedlings along two sides of soccer edge.



Attending the Golden Shovel celebration at Park West were, L-R, 1]Rachel Sarls of Texas Forest Service,, Guadalupe Master Naturalist President Craig Bruske, Forest Restoration Co-chair John Barrington, City Councilman Jim Lievens, HEB representative, Seguin Mayor Donna Dodgen, HEB partners, Forest RestorationCo-chair Nancy Masterson.





Guadalupe Master Naturalists attending the Golden Shovel celebration at Park West were, L-R: Mia Luciano, Melissa Skinner, Liz Keller, Susan Rumsey, Ken Harvey, Belinda Rossiter, Nick Franzen, Janet Magee, Chris Castoro [behind Janet] Craig Wagner, Chris Dyess, Pam Sagebiel, John Barrington, Marilyn Anderson, Craig Bruske, Nancy Masterson, Jim Salles [in tree], Dawn Durain and Jim Dyess.

Fourteen Guadalupe Master Naturalists gathered on Thursday, November 19, to plant more than 20 young trees in the Park West forest. They will plant and water 125 trees over the next five weeks. All trees are funded by an HEB Trees for Texans grant.



Park West Planting Crew L-R Front: Dawn Durain, Pam Sagebiel, Belinda Rossiter;  
Center: Liz Keller, Kate Schnautz, Chris Dyess, Craig Wagner, Annette Kowalchik, Donna Alvarado, Melissa Skinner;  
Back: John Barrington, Jim Salles, Jim Dyess. Not pictured Nancy Masterson.

Please sign up for a shift to water our thirsty little trees. There will be a member of the Forest Restoration group there to partner with you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AADAF2DA20-60519176-tree>

Here's our December and 2026 schedule of Resource Management volunteer days:

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

**Watering:** Saturdays 9-10:30 AM; **Dec 6, 13, 20**

**Watering:** Mondays 9:30-10 AM; **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.

### **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, Cobolo, TX





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

**Date:** Saturday, December 6, 2025  
December 20, 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@gvtc.com](mailto:ecowley@gvtc.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.

### **First Day Sunrise Bird Walk**

Start Out the New Year Right! Join Elaine Cowley at Palmetto State Park on New year's Day.

**Date:** January 1, 2026

**Time:** 7:30 – 9:00 AM

**Location:** Meet at the Refectory, Palmetto State Park, 78 Park Road 11

**Bring:** Binoculars (will have a few extras) and water.

**Distance:** Approximately 1.25 miles

**Contact:** Elaine Cowley at [ecowley@gvtc.com](mailto:ecowley@gvtc.com) or 432-559-5101 for questions or to check on any change in plans.

All experience levels are welcome.

Park entry fee not required for First Day activities

This will be Community Science hours so be sure to create your free account on [eBird.org](http://eBird.org) and download the App.



## **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

### **ADVANCED TRAINING**



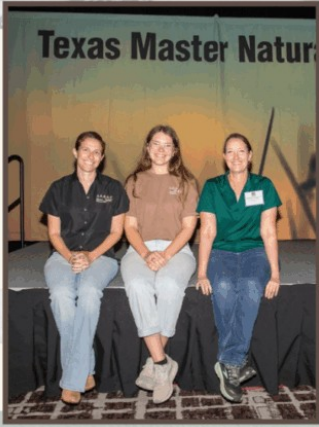
Online Webinar  
Speaker Series

#TMNTuesdays

December  
2025

*“State Program Document  
Updates: A Look at the  
Brand Guide, CMOP,  
and More”*

**with**



***Texas Master Naturalist Program***  
*Michelle Haggerty, Mary Pearl Meuth, Hannah Ferguson*

**December 9, 12pm CT**

# Training Class News

The Training Class completed their studies on November 15 with a field trip to Walnut Springs. The lesson on macroorganisms was led by Tom Hardaway. Students were amazed to discover the many small creatures that live under the debris on the creek bottom.





An enjoyable luncheon was held to celebrate the completion of the 2025 Fall Training Class.



Receiving class completion certificates were, L-R, Laura Schmidbauer, Kreg Blevins, Kathy Gulley, Daphne Blevins, Lisa Ancelet, Canaan Henderson, Monica Chester, Jenn Jontry and Melissa Skinner.



Jenn Jontry and Laura Schmidbauer completed their Initial Certification at the completion of class and received official name tags and their Master Naturalist t-shirts.



When asked what inspired her to not only complete all class requirements but also complete the initial 40 hours of volunteer time and the 8 hours of advanced training, new Guadalupe Master Naturalist Jenn Jontry replied, "My primary focus the past few months has been field research. I've had a hard time re-acclimating to the Texas heat, so working on outdoor projects (like Park West) over the summer was a no-go for me. I participate in CoCoRaHS daily weather monitoring, eBird, Project FeederWatch (November thru April) and iNaturalist projects. I put in quite a few hours doing online insect identification with Zooniverse/Stream Team Emergent Insect Explorer. As far as advanced training, I always join the TMN Tuesday webinars and those offered by Wild Ones and other nearby TMN chapters, as well as attending our own monthly chapter meetings, either in person or by Zoom.

I feel I had a little bit of an advantage since I've been a master naturalist for many years and was already familiar with the opportunities that are out there. I passed that info along to my classmates who were looking for things to do to obtain their hours that didn't involve being out in the extreme heat, traveling long distances, or that could be done outside of their work schedules."

In addition to completing her initial certification, Jenn was elected our Vice-president for the 2026-2028 chapter term.

Laura Schmidbauer shared activities that allowed her to complete initial certification. Laura was one of our most devoted volunteers at the Ag Awareness Days at the Big Red Barn teaching 4<sup>th</sup> graders about Texas wildlife. She did the same at the Toby Conner Agriculture Complex in Cibolo. She volunteered at Bracken Bat Cave and assisted Carolyn Wolfer at Owl Prowl. Advanced Training was earned by going on beginner's bird hikes and going to Warble Woods with Sandi Wheeler. Attending the Annual Meeting in College Station provided many hours of instruction.

## CHAPTER DUES

**2026 Yearly dues of \$25.00 may be paid to Treasurer Chris Castoro at the December Holiday Party or you may 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 [gmnca@guadmn.org](mailto:gmnca@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

[craigbruska@hotmail.com](mailto:craigbruska@hotmail.com)  
[depositemailhere@gmail.com](mailto:depositemailhere@gmail.com)  
[belindarossiter@gmail.com](mailto:belindarossiter@gmail.com)  
[ccastoro1340@gmail.com](mailto:ccastoro1340@gmail.com)

### **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 –

[at@guadmn.org](mailto:at@guadmn.org)  
[communications@guadmn.org](mailto:communications@guadmn.org)  
[gmnca@guadmn.org](mailto:gmnca@guadmn.org)  
[mia.kim.luciano@gmail.com](mailto:mia.kim.luciano@gmail.com)  
[MarilynA@access4less.net](mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net)  
[wheels5683@gmail.com](mailto:wheels5683@gmail.com)

Marilyn Anderson [Seguin]

[MarilynA@access4less.net](mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net)  
Deborah Dedrick [Schertz]  
Kenneth Harvey [Schertz]  
Membership/VMS – Michelle Darnell  
Nature Education –  
Laura Griffith [Schertz]  
Programs – Deborah Dedrick  
Resource Management – Nancy Masterson  
John Barrington  
Training Class – Michelle Darnell

[ddedrick7@gmail.com](mailto:ddedrick7@gmail.com)  
[knnthdhvry@yahoo.com](mailto:knnthdhvry@yahoo.com)  
[gmnmembers@guadmn.org](mailto:gmnmembers@guadmn.org)  
OPEN - Seguin  
[ljgriffith528@gmail.com](mailto:ljgriffith528@gmail.com)  
[ddedrick7@gmail.com](mailto:ddedrick7@gmail.com)  
[nsethermasterson@gmail.com](mailto:nsethermasterson@gmail.com)  
[freedom516@yahoo.com](mailto:freedom516@yahoo.com)  
[gmnmembers@guadmn.org](mailto:gmnmembers@guadmn.org)