



***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, January 26, 2026

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.
Arrive 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

No Discover Program in January

Next Program in February: Discover Sensational Snakes

Date: Saturday, February 14, 2026

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:



Contact: Laura Griffith at ljgriffith528@gmail.com for information and to volunteer.

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.

Nature Scavenger Hunt at Crescent Bend Nature Park

Date: Sunday, January 25, 2026

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:

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

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 belindarossiter@gmail.com
01/18/26	1-3:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Schertz Library Mtg. Rm 1	Milda Scott mldsct@gmail.com

Park West Tree Watering Schedule

Date: Saturday, January 3, 2026
Thursdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026
Time: 8:30 – 11:30 AM



Description: 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.

Go to the Signup Genius to get on the watering list:

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



**Your help is needed to water all 125 small trees.
Start earning new volunteer hours for 2026.**

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 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
Contact Warbler Woods for volunteer opportunities.



Birding 101 Walk at Palmetto State Park

Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026
January 24, 2026

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 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.

[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 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.



What is the Birding Classic?

The Great Texas Birding Classic is one of the largest and longest-running birdwatching tournaments in the country. Held each spring during peak migration, this month-long event challenges teams to find and identify as many bird species as possible—all while raising critical funds for bird conservation and habitat projects across Texas.

Organized by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Birding Classic offers multiple tournament categories for all ages, abilities, and experience levels—from a single backyard spot to an all-out statewide adventure.



Tournament Dates: April 15 – May 15, 2026

Whether you're brand-new to birding or a seasoned competitive lister, there's a place for you in the Birding Classic.

- Beginners, experts, and everyone in between
- Families, friends, and youth teams
- Birders of all abilities
- Backyard birders, state park visitors, and statewide travelers

Save this Date:

The Pileated Posse rides again! **May 6 will be the date for the Big Sit at Palmetto State Park. It is part of the Great Texas Birding Classic. Awesome T-shirts, great company and no birding experience required. More details in a later newsletter.**

Contact Elaine Cowley at ecowley@gvtc.com or 432-559-5101 for information about this event at Palmetto State Park. Come when you can, no schedule of participation as you set the amount of time you can be there.



Online Webinar
Speaker Series

#TMNTuesdays

**January
2026**

“State of the Program”

with



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

January 13, 12pm CT

Tree Care and Disease Management
Guadalupe Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas



Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026

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: AgriLife Extension Agent Travis Franke will present the program of native trees and what we can do to keep them healthy.

Chapter News

CHAPTER DUES

2026 Yearly dues of \$25.00 may be paid to Treasurer Chris Castoro at January Chapter meeting or you may mail to:
Chris Castoro, Treasurer
Guadalupe Master Naturalists
210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, TX 78155



Chapter Operating Handbook section 4.5c:

Dues shall be payable on or before January 31 each calendar year. If dues are not paid by January 31 each calendar year, then all privileges afforded a TMN member are rescinded until dues are paid. A TMN member who is not current in the payment of dues will be considered inactive and categorized as such in VMS.

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 gmnca1@guadmn.org.

Many of us enjoyed eating Chris Dyess' yummy Lemon Bread Pudding at the Holiday Social. Chris has provided the recipe so we can all enjoy making it at home.



Heavenly Lemon Bread Pudding w/Lemon Cream Sauce

Yield: 8 servings Total Time: 1.5 hrs

3 c day old French/Italian bread, in ½ inch cubes
4 tsp grated lemon zest
1 c whipping cream
1 c whole milk
1 c sugar
3 Tbls butter, cut into small pieces
¼ tsp salt
4 large eggs, separated
½ c lemon juice
Confectioners' sugar

1. Heat oven to 325. Butter bottom only of 2-qt casserole or souffle dish.
2. Combine bread cubes and lemon zest in large bowl; set aside.
3. Combine cream, milk, sugar, butter, and salt in a heavy saucepan.
4. Over medium heat, cook until butter melts, stirring occasionally. Pour over bread mixture, toss. Allow to cool
5. Beat eggs whites in large bowl until stiff peaks form. Do not overbeat.
6. Lightly beat eggs yolks (can use beaters w/o washing them); then beat in lemon juice and stir into bread mixture. Set aside.
7. Gently fold egg whites into bread mixture. Pour bread mixture into prepared dish & bake for 1 hr, or until knife inserted 1 in from center comes out clean.
8. Cool on wire rack for 10 mins. Dust with confectioners' sugar, if desired.

Lemon Cream Sauce

1 ½ c granulated sugar
1 Tbls cornstarch
1 ½ sticks butter
3/8 c heavy whipping cream
3/8 c lemon juice
1 Tbls lemon zest

1. In saucepan, mix together sugar and cornstarch. Add remaining ingredients.
2. Cook over med-high heat, stirring constantly until mixture melts and comes to a boil
3. Continue to stir while allowing mixture to boil for a min or two, until sauce begins to slightly thicken.
4. Let cool (sauce will thicken as it cools); drizzle over slice of bread pudding.

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net by **Tuesday, January 23** for the February 2026 issue.

Officers:

President – Craig Bruska	craigbruska@hotmail.com
Vice-president – Jenn Jontry	gourmet_gardener@outlook.com
Secretary – Belinda Rossiter	belindarossiter@gmail.com
Treasurer – Chris Castoro	ccastoro1340@gmail.com

Committee Chairs:

Advanced Training – Jim Dyess	at@guadmn.org
Communications – Bruce Bebow	communications@guadmn.org
Calendar – Renee Harvey	gmncal@guadmn.org
Marketing – Mia Luciano	mia.kim.luciano@gmail.com
Newsletter – Marilyn Anderson	MarilynA@access4less.net
Community Science – Sandi Wheeler	wheels5683@gmail.com
Fund Raising – OPEN	
Hospitality –Marilyn Anderson [Seguin]	MarilynA@access4less.net
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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

