



***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, February 23, 2026

**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



**We may be a week late, but we can still eat like it's Fat Tuesday!**

**Pre-meeting social time will begin at 6:30. Arrive early to visit with your fellow Master Naturalists, meet and greet guests, 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.

Deb Dedrick and Ken Harvey serve as hospitality coordinator for the Seguin meeting.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### NATURE EDUCATION

#### 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:** Our First Discovery Series is all about Sensational Snakes. Our resident herpetologist, Tom Hardaway, has put together a great program to share snakes with kids. If we're lucky enough, Tom will bring one or two with him.



Sign-up to help using the Signup Genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48AAAD2AABFE3-61880434-sensational>

**Contact:** Laura Griffith at [ljgriffith528@gmail.com](mailto: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, February 22, 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:** 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 the nature around us. You do not need to be an expert, just have a willingness to talk with people about becoming a Master Naturalist and answer questions that participants might have regarding things they see during the 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.

There are laminated cards so participants (mostly children) can check off things they might see and I also have nature stickers that can be given out as a prize.

**Contact** Carolyn Wolfer, [wolfercdat@mac.com](mailto:wolfercdat@mac.com) for information and to volunteer with this popular program.



**Palmetto State Park Summer Camp** will be held **June 1 – June 5**. We will be looking for general volunteers and presenters. We had awesome participation from the GMN last year and hope to see you there again. John Barrington and Elaine Cowley will be coordinating as we get closer.



**Want to see what happens at Palmetto? Watch the YouTube video from Texas Parks and Wildlife about the park. Watch closely looking for someone you may know! Here's the link: | <https://youtu.be/HJHJNhIT2cA?si=XjJLuHHulkqhQ28h>**

**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.

02/07/26	1-3:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Seguin Public Library	Belinda Rossiter <a href="mailto:belindarossiter@gmail.com">belindarossiter@gmail.com</a>
02/15/26	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>

**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. There are usually two or three times a month and participate in as much or as little as you want. Sometimes these tasks are labor intensive, such as removing huisache, planting native vegetation, cutting back trees and maintaining/installing owl and bird boxes. However, there are usually a few projects that are more "tame" like cleaning out bird boxes and wildlife guzzlers, or wrapping the diversity plots in deer repellent tape.

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  
Contact Warbler Woods for volunteer opportunities.

### **Park West Volunteers are THE BEST!**

Resource Management volunteers at Park West have dedicated 120 hours during January, watering baby trees, cutting and hauling invasive plants out of the forest, marking and coding 125 tree locations into a Geographic Information System. At times we've had up to 14 Master Naturalists at once! The City of Seguin Parks Dept. has been a steadfast partner, providing a storage room, debris trailer, water tank trailer and faithful irrigation to the 7 large trees we provided along the Soccer Field sidewalk. Every week, the leaders write a report to the Parks Dept, letting them know of our schedule, plans and needs. And of course we always take a 10 AM break, to drink water, snack on goodies and generally socialize. We meet at Park West, 601 N. Vaughan Avenue, every Thursday from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. Join us!



The City of Seguin Parks Department provides GMN volunteers with a debris trailer and we usually fill it twice during a morning workday at Park West. Branches of invasive species are chipped into mulch that is given out free to City residents.



Down goes the invasive Ligustrum from the forest area of Seguin's Park West. GMN volunteers cut and haul, then paint the stumps with herbicide to prevent resprouting. The leave cedar elm, live oak, hackberry and other native trees to thrive in the sunlight.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE

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

**Date:** Saturday, February 7, 2026  
February 21, 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), water and consider bug spray depending on the weather

**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.

## **Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)**

**Date:** February 13 - 16, 2026

**Description:** Cornell Lab of Ornithology's 29th annual backyard bird count is a chance to identify and share your sightings whether in your backyard or a favorite local park.

Sightings shared through Ebird or Merlin help scientists better understand and protect birds around Texas and the world. You can count birds in the same location all four days or seek out multiple places to bird. Sightings shared through Ebird or Merlin automatically count towards the GBBC. For more info check out

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhB4CPoo4-E>

## **Upcoming Webinar: Get Excited for GBBC**

This lively, beginner-friendly webinar will inspire you to deepen your connection with birds while joining a worldwide count.

Join this one-hour live event to discover tips, tricks, and ideas to prepare for the GBBC, a fun and impactful global community science event! GBBC team members will share how to participate with confidence, while special guest and author Julia Zarankin explores beginner birding and the love and joy of backyard birds.

### **Register for webinar at:**

[https://act.audubon.org/a/2026-gbbc-training-webinar?ms=nas-eng-partner-webinar-2026\\_great\\_backyard\\_bird\\_count\\_cornell\\_lab&utm\\_campaign=2026\\_great\\_backyard\\_bird\\_count&utm\\_medium=partner&utm\\_source=webinar&utm\\_content=cornell\\_lab](https://act.audubon.org/a/2026-gbbc-training-webinar?ms=nas-eng-partner-webinar-2026_great_backyard_bird_count_cornell_lab&utm_campaign=2026_great_backyard_bird_count&utm_medium=partner&utm_source=webinar&utm_content=cornell_lab)

VMS Volunteer Hours: | FR: Chapter Approved

## **Mini-Bioblitz at Palmetto State Park**

**Date:** Saturday, February 21, 2026

**Time:** 10:45 am – noon(ish) following the Birding 101 Walk

**Location:** Meet at the Refectory

**Description:** Time to start practicing for the City Nature Challenge San Antonio Metro Area event.

Assistance will be provided in learning iNaturalist, projects to join and best practices tips.

Bring: Phone with iNaturalist installed, water and consider bug spray depending on the weather

**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 or reserve online.

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

Community Science hours (VMS Code FR – iNaturalist)



## Texas Nature Trackers Bat Acoustic Monitoring Project



Our chapter has participated in this project for the last two years. The dates are May – June 2026. There are limited spots and first consideration for placing a monitor at a location will be given to those that participated last year since a consistent year after year record is ideal.

On **February 13 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm**, a webinar on the project will be held. If you participated last year, please consider attending. If you are interested in what the project is doing and hosting a monitor – this is the place to learn. Please contact Bobby Cowley at [bcowley@gvtc.com](mailto:bcowley@gvtc.com) or 432-559-5104 if you are interested or have questions. More details to follow in subsequent a newsletter or meeting.

### **Bat Project Webinar - Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:30PM**

This link has more details and registration link:

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/b7cffa83-07bc-4240-bbe2-6f47b1edb834@7864fda7-62ad-47ec-81ec-323266e3a35f>

Details and agenda on registration page.

Attendance counts as AT (live webinar)



Organized by the Texas Parks and Wildlife, the GTBC celebrates it's 30th year this year and is one of the largest and longest running birdwatching tournaments in the country. Held each spring, the tournament 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. There are a myriad ways to participate and the chapter will host a few "Big Sit" events during the month-long event. More details will be in upcoming newsletters and on the calendar.

**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

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/resources/texas-junior-naturalists/the-great-texas-birding-classic>

[VMS Volunteer Hours: FR: Chapter Approved](#)



## 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](mailto: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.

## City Nature Challenge San Antonio Metro Area

**Date:** April 24 - 27, 2026

It's time to get ready for the **11th annual City Nature Challenge**, a worldwide community science effort that uses the iNaturalist app to observe, document, and help identify the plants and wildlife that live in and around our cities. Last year our metro area was first in the US and 2nd in the world. While you can make observations anywhere in our area, the chapter will be hosting an events over the four days.

Currently, we have an events scheduled at:

- 1] Palmetto State Park on Friday, April 24
- 2] Canyon Lake Gorge on Monday, April 27th.

We will add more events in the future including mini bioblitzes before the CNC to give you a chance to practice your iNaturalist skills. So be watching the newsletter and calendar for more dates. For more information check

out <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/resources/texas-junior-naturalists/the-great-texas-birding-classic>

<https://www.citynaturechallenge.org/>

## ADVANCED TRAINING

### Beyond Bluebonnets: An Introduction to Local Wildflower Diversity Guadalupe Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas

**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026

**Time:** 6:30 PM – Refreshments  
7:00 PM Program

**Location:** St. John Lutheran Church, FM 465, Marion, Texas

**Description:** Presenter Andy Blair, Conservation Biologist and Plant Centric Ecologist, will share about all the many wildflowers in Texas – other than bluebonnets.





Online Webinar  
Speaker Series

**#TMNTuesdays**

**February  
2026**

Join Richard as he tells us all about the animal featured on the Texas Master Naturalist 2026 recertification pin: The Bobcat!

***“The Bobcat:  
2026 Re-  
certification Pin”***



**with**

***Richard Heilbrun***

*TPWD Wildlife Division Deputy Director*

**February 10, 12pm CT**

**Register:**

<https://tpwdevents.webex.com/webappng/sites/tpwdevents/webinar/webinarSeries/register/4e6f9dd3145e4368a56d4c028b97f158>

Learn how excessive artificial light at night can negatively affect birds.



Master Gardener's  
February 19th, 2026  
Membership Meeting

**Protecting  
Our Dark Sky -  
Reduce Light Pollution**

**With Cindy Luongo-Cassidy,  
President of DarkSky Texas**

210 E. Live Oak St.  
Seguin, Texas

- \* 5:45 Social w/ Good Food
- \* 6:15 Business Meeting
- \* 7:00 Presentation

**Free & Open To The Public**

A&M Agrilife Extension is an equal opportunity employer & program provider. The Texas A&M University system and the County Commissioners Courts Cooperating. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the program should contact the County Extension Office at least one week prior to the program or event to request mobility, hearing, visual, or other assistance.

## **Comal County and New Braunfels Severe Weather and Flooding Training**

**Date:** Saturday, March 21, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM –12:00 PM

**Location:** Comal County Emergency Operations Center - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
1345 Church Hill Dr., New Braunfels, TX



**Description: Training Overview** - Training is free and open to the public.

**900-1030 AM: Basic Severe Weather and Flooding Training** - Provides a basic overview of severe weather hazards and flooding. The training will include severe weather information specific to South Central Texas, procedures for spotting and reporting severe weather and flooding to local NWS forecasters, and how to stay weather aware and prepared.

**1030 AM - 1200 PM: Advanced Severe Weather Training** - A more in-depth look at severe weather for those who want to learn more. Topics include weather models, a complete review of severe weather ingredients, and a broad overview of weather radar, its products, and uses.

**Please note, you do not have to stay for the Advanced class, however if you are attending the Advanced class at 10:30 AM we highly encourage you to also attend the Basic class at 9:00 AM.**

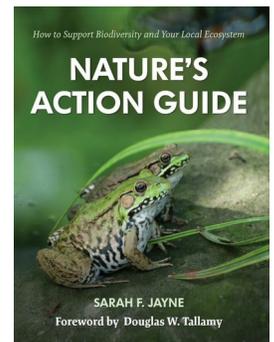
**Contact:** For any questions please contact [Jason.Runyen@noaa.gov](mailto:Jason.Runyen@noaa.gov)

## **Ecology and Beauty: Creating a Landscape that Welcomes Wildlife and People** **Collin County Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026

**Time:** 6:30 – 9:00 PM

**Description:** The speaker is [Sarah F. Jayne](#) – she is an environmentalist, educator, and wildlife advocate. Her book “**Nature’s Action Guide: How to Support Biodiversity and Your Local Ecosystem**” is a companion to Doug Tallamy’s “Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard” and features 15 urgent actions to support biodiversity.



### **Presentation Summary**

Now more than ever our yards and community spaces need to support biodiversity. How can we ensure that our spaces are both ecologically rich and beautiful? We'll look at which plants matter most when it comes to your local biodiversity; how to procure them for generous plantings; and how to place them to increase their appeal to wildlife and people, along with strategies to protect the wildlife our natural plantings attract. We'll consider strategies to ensure that our landscapes gain community acceptance such that they become invitations for others to transform their landscapes. A cost-conscious, DIY approach makes taking action doable.



## Recertifications for December 2025

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

**Pam Sagebiel and Faith Norman**

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

**250 Hours**

**Donna Alvarado**

**Annette Kowalichek**

**Dawn Durain**

**Michael Torstick**

**Lisa Schwartz**

Double Certification from Class of 2024

**Paul Myers**

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Our 2025 training class is still making great strides towards their certification.

Complete her requirements to complete graduation is

**Chelsea Smith**

We have one newly certified Guadalupe Master Naturalist

**Melissa Skinner**

has completed her Initial Certification

From the Class of 2025, we have our first

**Double Certification**

**Jennifer Jontry**

# Chapter News

## CHAPTER DUES

2026 Yearly dues of \$25.00 may be paid to Treasurer Chris Castoro at February 23 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](http://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, February 24**, for the March issue.

**Officers:**

President – Craig Bruska	<a href="mailto:craigbruska@hotmail.com">craigbruska@hotmail.com</a>
Vice-president – Jenn Jontry	<a href="mailto:gourmet_gardener@outlook.com">gourmet_gardener@outlook.com</a>
Secretary – Belinda Rossiter	<a href="mailto:belindarossiter@gmail.com">belindarossiter@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer – Chris Castoro	<a href="mailto:ccastoro1340@gmail.com">ccastoro1340@gmail.com</a>

**Committee Chairs:**

Advanced Training – Jim Dyess	<a href="mailto:at@guadmn.org">at@guadmn.org</a>
Communications – Bruce Bebow	<a href="mailto:communications@guadmn.org">communications@guadmn.org</a>
Calendar – Renee Harvey	<a href="mailto:gmncal@guadmn.org">gmncal@guadmn.org</a>
Marketing – Mia Luciano	<a href="mailto:mia.kim.luciano@gmail.com">mia.kim.luciano@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter – Marilyn Anderson	<a href="mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net">MarilynA@access4less.net</a>
Community Science – Sandi Wheeler	<a href="mailto:wheels5683@gmail.com">wheels5683@gmail.com</a>
Fund Raising – OPEN	
Hospitality –Marilyn Anderson [Seguin]	<a href="mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net">MarilynA@access4less.net</a>
Deborah Dedrick [Schertz]	<a href="mailto:ddedrick7@gmail.com">ddedrick7@gmail.com</a>
Kenneth Harvey [Schertz]	<a href="mailto:knnthdhvvy@yahoo.com">knnthdhvvy@yahoo.com</a>
Membership/VMS – Michelle Darnell	<a href="mailto:gmnmembers@guadmn.org">gmnmembers@guadmn.org</a>
Nature Education – OPEN - Seguin	
Laura Griffith [Schertz]	<a href="mailto:lgriffith528@gmail.com">lgriffith528@gmail.com</a>
Programs – Deborah Dedrick	<a href="mailto:ddedrick7@gmail.com">ddedrick7@gmail.com</a>
Resource Management – Nancy Masterson	<a href="mailto:nsethermasterson@gmail.com">nsethermasterson@gmail.com</a>
John Barrington	<a href="mailto:freedom516@yahoo.com">freedom516@yahoo.com</a>
Training Class – Michelle Darnell	<a href="mailto:gmnmembers@guadmn.org">gmnmembers@guadmn.org</a>
Volunteer Service – Bruce Bebow	<a href="mailto:bbebow@gmail.com">bbebow@gmail.com</a>



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