

# Guadalupe Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

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



May 2026

Vol. 13 Issue 5

***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, May 18, 2026 *[Note date change because of Memorial Day]*

**Time:** 6:30 PM - Social/Visiting

7:00 PM - Program

8:00 PM - Business Meeting

**Location:** AgriLife Extension, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin and online with Webex

**Description:** TBD



**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.  
Marilyn Anderson serves as  
hospitality coordinator for the Seguin meeting.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### NATURE EDUCATION

#### Discover Soil

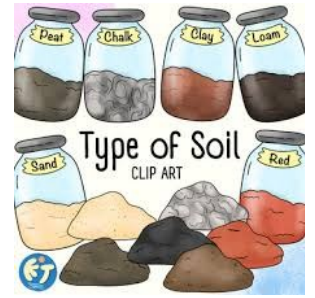
**Date:** Saturday, May 9, 2026

**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:** Children will investigate the composition and importance of soils.



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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48AAAD2AABFE3-63895372-discover>

**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.

### **Expedition Field Day – Texas Wildlife Association**

**Date:** Friday, May 8th; Rain day: Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Location:** Seguin ISD's Outdoor Learning Center- 1865 E U.S. Hwy 90, Seguin, TX 78155

**Description:** This Field Day is for 8th grade students from Barnes Middle School.

Students move to 6 stations where they experience:

**2 LAND: Soil + Erosion | Color Scavenger Hunt**

**2 WATER: Macroinvertebrate Assessment | Rainfall Simulator**

**2 WILDLIFE: Predator Prey Game | Quail CSI Nest Predation**

TWA provides all the materials, station talking points (additional training available beforehand if needed), lunch (ex: sandwiches, chips, cookies, fruit, drinks), and a free year-long digital membership to TWA.

Sign up at this link. **Spring 2026 TWA Expedition Volunteer Interest Form**

Please call Sarah Hixson Miller [TWA Conservation Education Specialist] if you have questions.

281-638-2984 or [smiller@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:smiller@texas-wildlife.org)

## Palmetto State Park Events

### Nixon-Smiley Elementary School

**Date:** Tuesday, May 5

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 AM

**Location:** Palmetto State Park,

**Description:** Seventy-two 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Nixon-Smiley Elementary will visit the park to experience nature learning. Fifteen chaperones and teachers will accompany the students. Super sweet group, already had a map from the previous visit.

Would like help on skins and skulls and walking the hike to answer kid's questions. This group will likely be put into three groups.

### High School Special Needs Students

**Date:** Friday, May 8

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Description:** Small group for guided hike.

*[Check with Sky for details; what time the hike will take place, etc.]*

### A Rocha Outdoors – Austin

**Date:** Saturday, May 16

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Description:** Hike will likely be at 11 am. Organizers do not have an exact head count but estimating around 30 people. Family group so kids and parents. Activities - guided hike of Ottine swamp trail and interpretive trail and fishing demonstration. I have a volunteer fishing instructor scheduled to join us. Fishing will be after lunch around 2 pm-3/3:30 pm. It is ok to come to both or just one as I understand there is a gap in time.

**Contact for all Palmetto events listed above:** Skylit [Sky] McWhorter [Palmetto State Park Interpreter]

Phone: 830-263-2060 or Email: [Skylit.McWhorter@TPWD.texas.gov](mailto:Skylit.McWhorter@TPWD.texas.gov)



### Palmetto Summer Camp

**Dates:** Monday – Friday, June 1-5, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Description:** Earn volunteer hours having fun with the summer camp kids. You will help supervise during their instructional activities and then sit at Oxbow Lake while they swim in the afternoon.

**Contact:** Kay Floyd [kay@kayfloydpr.com](mailto:kay@kayfloydpr.com)

She needs to know:

1. What day[s] you will be there
2. Morning, afternoon, or all day

## Owl Prowl at Crescent Bend

**Date:** Sunday, May 24, 2026

**Time:** 8:30 – 9:30 pm (volunteers meet at 8:00 pm at the picnic tables next to the restrooms)

**Location:** Crescent Bend Nature Park, Schertz

**Description:** It's that time of year again....Texas HEAT! Of course, that also means we get to wander Crescent Bend at night and our first Owl Prowl. If you're not familiar, we take participants around the park and look for scorpions, spiders, and hopefully owls. While walking we'll talk about anything in nature that sparks your interest. These walks are inspired by the interests and observations of those who attend. We will expand 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 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 at night. I have a supply of UV and normal flashlights that we pass out to let people look for spiders and scorpions but it would be really helpful if you have some of your own to bring for your use.



I also need a volunteer who is willing to just sit at the picnic tables and monitor our two moth tents while the groups are on their walks. This person would also be in charge of managing the sign-in and passing out flashlights at the beginning and collecting the flashlights at the end.

Volunteers should plan on arriving no later than 8pm. Please contact me ahead of time if you want to stay with the tents so I know if I have a person for this responsibility.

Our largest group is usually in May and sure enough we **have 30 slots already signed up.**

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

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### Park West Pollinator Garden

**Date:** Mondays, May 4, 11, 18, 2026

**Time:** 8:30 – 9:30 AM

**Location:** Park West, 623 N. Vaughan Avenue, Seguin [close to the splash pad]

**Description:** Volunteers help to maintain the pollinator garden in Seguin's Park West (623 N Vaughan Ave, Seguin, TX 78155) each Monday at 8:30am. Tasks involve such things as weeding and trimming, and the team is usually there about an hour. Occasionally, larger scope projects are scheduled. Dress for gardening and bring tools.

If you would like to join the team or get more information, please contact Belinda Rossiter at [belindarossiter@gmail.com](mailto:belindarossiter@gmail.com) or 713-248-2001.

Guadalupe Master Naturalists may log hours worked on this project under "NPA: Park West Nature".



**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.

05/09/26	1-3:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Seguin Public Library Tech Lab 313 W. Nolte	Belinda Rossiter <a href="mailto:belindarossiter@gmail.com">belindarossiter@gmail.com</a>
05/17/26	1-3:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Schertz Library Mtg. Rm 2	Milda Scott <a href="mailto:mldsct@gmail.com">mldsct@gmail.com</a>



**GMN Park West Team**

## 2026 Summer Watering of Park West Trees

**BR** Belinda Rossiter  Contact

Guadalupe Master Naturalists have planted 125 new tree saplings in the Park West forest and they will need monthly watering throughout the summer of 2026.

**Park West Needs Tree Waterers for the Summer**

Guadalupe Master Naturalists have planted 125 new tree saplings in the Park West forest (623 N Vaughan Ave, Seguin, TX 78155) and they will need monthly watering throughout the summer of 2026. Belinda Rossiter is coordinating a team to do that on Monday mornings once a month, and would like your help if this is something you can do.

The City of Seguin will provide a water trailer from which 2.5-gallon jugs can be filled. From that point, we need WATER DELIVERERS to pull jugs in wagons to drop-off points on trails around the forest. We also need TREE WATERERS to carry water to the trees (mapped, and marked by flags). Each tree gets one jug of water, so that's a lot of water to haul!

Get more information about this project and sign up for shifts [via SignUpGenius here](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4FA8AC2FA7F94-63322583-2026) (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4FA8AC2FA7F94-63322583-2026>).

**Our little trees would appreciate your help**

## SISD Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center – Brush Clearing



**Date:** Saturday, May 9, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 AM

**Location:** Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center, 1865 US Hwy. 90 E, Seguin

**Description:** We will be doing Brush Clearing as prework prior to submitting the grant application Pasture for Upland Birds (PUB)

**Attire:** Closed toe shoes or boots

Please bring your own work gloves that fit your hand. A few gloves will be available.

**Water:** Bottled water will be available.

**Contact:** Craig Bruska will be leading this event. Please let him know you are coming to this event. [Craigbruska@hotmail.com](mailto:Craigbruska@hotmail.com)

## Invasive Removal – Arboretum San Antonio

**Date:** Saturday, May 16

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 AM

**Location:** 4226 SE Military Dr., San Antonio, TX

**Description:** This is a joint event with Alamo Chapter.

**Attire:** Wear closed toe shoes or boots

Bring your own gloves that fit your hands. A few gloves will be available.

Bottled water will be available; trash bags will be provided.

**Contact:** Craig Bruska, [Craigbruska@hotmail.com](mailto:Craigbruska@hotmail.com) is leading event. Please notify him if coming.

## 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. These tasks can be labor intensive (though not always), such as removing huisache, planting native vegetation, cutting back trees and maintaining/installing owl and bird boxes. The Kirchoff Prairie is located around Dewees (out past Floresville).

Contact Carolyn Wolfer, [wolfercdat@mac.com](mailto:wolfercdat@mac.com) for information

## 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.



### Big Sit at Palmetto State Park

**Date:** Wednesday, May 6, 2026

**Time:** 7:00 AM – sunset [come and go as your time allows]

**Location:** Palmetto State Park

**Description:** This will be the 9th year Palmetto State Park has hosted a team. The team's name is the "Pileated Platoon." The Big Sit is part of the activities for the Great Texas Birding Classic [information in next section] which runs from April 15 - May 15.

The Big Sit is a Big Day or a "bird-a-thon." The objective is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within 24 hours. The difference lies in the area limitation from which you may observe (50' circle).

We are looking for volunteers to participate. You do not need to be an experienced birder - in fact, this is a great way to learn more. You can come and go as you like - join us for an hour or the full day. It will start at 7:00 am and go until sunset. Bring a chair, binoculars (will have a few extra), snacks/lunch, sunscreen plus water depending on the length of time that you want to stay. The meeting area is the group campground. If you arrive before 8:15 am, you can go back over to check-in at the office later.



### Healthy Streams Project

The Healthy Streams team completed some work at Walnut Springs on Saturday, April 25. Leader Tom Hardaway invites those interested in participating to contact him for information.

The most exciting part of their day was when Tom was stepping down to the creek to put in a fish net. To greet him was a cottonmouth water moccasin resting along the edge of the creek! Neither the snake nor Tom were injured

**Contact:** Tom Hardaway at [tehardaway@yahoo.com](mailto:tehardaway@yahoo.com) to participate in this community science project.

## ADVANCED TRAINING

### **Texas Natives – Incredible Survivors** **Guadalupe Chapter – Native Plant Society of Texas**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2026

**Time:** 6:30 PM – Refreshments and Socialize

7:00 PM – Program

8:00 PM – Business Meeting

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

**Description:** Mark Fanick from Fanick’s Garden Center in San Antonio will present the program on Texas native plants. He is very knowledgeable about all things “gardening in Texas.” The plants in your landscape are the foundation for the food web our critters need to survive.

### **TMNTuesday**

#### **Turning Field Work into Funded Projects: Grant Strategies for TMN Chapters**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2026

**Time:** 11:30 AM – *Note time change!*

**Location:** Online via Webex

**Description:** Presenter will be Arlene Siller, Ph.D., Ascend Nonprofit & Business Solutions CEO and Founder. Texas Master Naturalist Chapters across the state are leading impactful conservation efforts — from habitat restoration and pollinator initiatives to youth education and citizen science. Yet many chapters struggle to translate their on-the-ground work into strong, competitive grant proposals. This session will provide practical, accessible strategies for turning field work into fundable projects. Participants will learn how to clearly articulate environmental impact, align projects with funder priorities, and avoid common mistakes that volunteer-led organizations often make in the grant process.

**Register and Information:** <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/#may>



Get excited for our **Texas Master Naturalist 2026 Annual Meeting** – to be held **Thursday, October 22 through Sunday, October 25** in Waco, Texas!

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.

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/2026-annual-meeting/> Lodging information now on website!



## Recertifications for April 2026

Congratulations to these members who recorded all their hours and achieved their recertification for 2026

**Chris Dyess**

**Jim Dyess**

**Dawn Durain**

**Sandi Wheeler**

**Michelle Darnell**

**Rhonda Flores**

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

Completing their graduation requirements

**Lindsey Mahoney**

**Georgina Mahoney**

Newly certified Guadalupe Master Naturalist from the class of 2025

**Lindsey Mahoney**

**Georgina Mahoney**

**Mia Luciano**



Re-certifications for 2026 are Rhonda Flores, Sandi Wheeler, Michelle Darnell, presenting pins Craig Bruska, Chris Dyess, Jim Dyess and Bruce Bebow.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Liz Keller is happy to receive her certificates from President Craig Bruska and Michelle Darnell



# Upcoming Events

## 2026 Fall Training Class

Planning for our Fall Training Class has begun. It will be a night class held in Schertz. If you would like to be involved with the next class, please contact Michelle Darnell at [gmnmembers@guadmn.org](mailto:gmnmembers@guadmn.org) or 210.601.8957

Forms needed to register are on our website. Please provide the information or print copies for those you think would be great additions to our Chapter. Here's the web address for you: <https://txmn.org/guadalupe/gmn-training/>

### 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 [gmnca1@guadmn.org](mailto:gmnca1@guadmn.org).**

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

**Summer is coming and I'll be hitting the beach frequently!  
I'll need your newsletter items on time, please**



**Officers:**

President – Craig Bruska [craigbruska@hotmail.com](mailto:craigbruska@hotmail.com)  
Vice-president – Jenn Jontry [gourmet\\_gardener@outlook.com](mailto:gourmet_gardener@outlook.com)  
Secretary – Belinda Rossiter [belindarossiter@gmail.com](mailto:belindarossiter@gmail.com)  
Treasurer – Chris Castoro [ccastoro1340@gmail.com](mailto:ccastoro1340@gmail.com)

**Committee Chairs:**

Advanced Training – Jim Dyess [at@guadmn.org](mailto:at@guadmn.org)  
Communications – Bruce Bebow [communications@guadmn.org](mailto:communications@guadmn.org)  
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Hospitality –Marilyn Anderson [Seguin] [MarilynA@access4less.net](mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net)  
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Training Class – Michelle Darnell [gmnmembers@guadmn.org](mailto:gmnmembers@guadmn.org)  
Volunteer Service – Bruce Bebow [bbebow@gmail.com](mailto:bbebow@gmail.com)

**Sponsors:**

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