

Guadalupe Chapter

Texas Master Naturalist

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



June 2026

Vol. 13 Issue 6

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.*



Chapter meetings will not be held during June and July. August meeting will be in Schertz. Volunteer activities will continue and opportunities for Advanced Training will be available.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NATURE EDUCATION

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.

Owl Prowl at Crescent Bend

Date: Sunday, June 28, 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.

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

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Park West Pollinator Garden

Date: Mondays, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 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 or 713-248-2001.

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



GMN Park West Team

2026 Summer Watering of Park West Trees



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

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.



06/06/26	1-3:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Seguin Public Library Tech Lab 313 W. Nolte	Belinda Rossiter belindarossiter@gmail.com
06/21/26	1-3:00 PM	Seed Cleaning/Packaging Workday	Schertz Library Mtg. Rm 1	Milda Scott mldsct@gmail.com

Pay It Forward Gorge Work Day

Saturday, June 13 from 9:00–11:00 a.m.

All members are invited to help with a Pay It Forward Work Day at Canyon Lake Gorge. This volunteer effort helps make it possible for the next training class to enjoy a Gorge tour at no charge, continuing the tradition started by previous classes.

Volunteers will be working in a fully shaded area near the Gorge, clearing out old dead growth that has already been cut down. This work will help prepare the space for a future outdoor classroom area.

The Gorge will provide hand saws and loppers, but volunteers are welcome to bring their own trimming equipment if they prefer.

To volunteer, please text Michelle Darnell at 210-601-8957

Garden Volunteer Day at Fischer Park Nature Center Pollinator Garden

Date: Saturday, June 6th,

Time: 9:00-10:30am

Description: Come join other volunteers on the first Saturday of each month helping our pollinators have a great place to stop off for a meal. There are always tasks available for any age or ability and the garden is completely accessible, so feel free to bring additional family members. The tasks vary depending on the time of year, how many volunteers we have available and what's going on in the garden at that moment. This June we will be removing invasive plants from the beds, clearing the paths of overgrown vegetation and removing excess vegetation to allow more space for individual plants. With all the rain, there are lots of plants we don't have room for. I'll also have a fresh supply of painted lady caterpillars so I'll need some folks to prep the habitats for their addition. If there are any children around, we'll have them add the caterpillars to their new home. Volunteers are provided water, gloves, and tools but you're always welcome to bring your own. The Pollinator Garden is located down the hill next to the Nature Center in New Braunfels.

Contact: Carolyn Wolfer, wolfercdat@mac.com or Craig Bruska craigbruska@hotmail.com for additional information.

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 planned. There are usually two or three opportunities a month and you're welcome to participate in as much or as little as you want. This is a great way to see first-hand what's involved in bringing a Blackland Prairie back to life. The Kirchoff Prairie is located around Dewees (out past Floresville).

Contact Carolyn Wolfer | wolfercdat@mac.com for information

Invasive Removal – Arboretum San Antonio

Date: Saturday, June 27, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: 4226 SE Military Dr, San Antonio, TX 78222

Activities :

8:00 AM-9:00AM - will be Safety Training of use of chainsaw and Plant ID: (invasive vs native).

9:00 AM-11:00 AM - Invasive Species Removal (RM)

(Optional -after 11 am - 2.5-mile nature walk and survey next site for invasive removal.)

This is a joint Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) chapter event, bringing together the Alamo Area and Guadalupe Chapters. Volunteers will assist with the removal of invasive plant species and litter cleanup to help restore this important natural area.

Event Leaders: Craig Bruska (Guadalupe Chapter) and Peter Joseph Hernandez (Alamo Area Chapter)

Focus Species: Primary target is the chinaberry tree, along with other invasive species identified on-site. 📄 [Map of work area:](#) (link) You can learn more about the Arboretum at

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

⚠ Important Notes

- This site is not open to the public; access is limited to registered participants.
- Please complete this RSVP and liability form prior to attending.
- In case of weather or other cancellations, participants will be notified via email by Friday at 6:00 PM.

👤 What to Bring / Expect

- Attire: Closed-toe shoes or boots (required)
- Gloves: Please bring your own work gloves (limited extras available)
- If available - bring your loppers (please tag your name on them)
- Water: BYO reusable bottle (refill available)
- Supplies: Trash bags and litter grabbers will be provided

🚻 Facilities

Restrooms are not available on-site. Nearest facilities are located at the Salado Creek Trailhead adjacent to the property

📞 Contact

For questions or comments , please contact:

Craig Bruska Guadalupe Texas Master Naturalist Craigbruska@hotmail.com

Peter Joseph Hernandez Alamo Area Texas Master Naturalist hernandez@swbell.net

Additional Notes:

- **RSVP LINK:** (RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/ASA-InvasiveRSVP2026>)
- Target is to have Saturday-Invasive every month. At this time, it may vary from month to month.
- Attend 3 invasive events or other joint events, on the 4th event you will get Arboretum T-shirt

Park West Celebration

Resource Management Season-End Party at Park West

The Resource Management team of GMN volunteers, the City of Seguin Parks Dept. staff and invited guests gathered at the Park West Large Pavilion on April 30, 2026 to celebrate the donation of 1,018 volunteer hours and the completion of the 2025-26 work season.

This year, the team planted, mulched and watered 125 tree seedlings of 39 Black Walnuts, 25 Bur Oaks, 14 Eve's Necklace, 25 Mexican White Oaks, 15 Pecans and 7 Texas Redbuds, plus cleared a new section of ligustrum. They also created a new 450' nature trail that demonstrates the difference between a true Texas forest and an invasive-dominated one. The team created a "Show 'N Tell" path from the east sidewalk trail toward the beautiful First Forest area. Eleven years ago, First Forest was all invasives and now it's an outstanding example of a healthy forest.

In appreciation, co-chair John Barrington gave a hand-turned bowl or vase to each volunteer, made from invasive species wood they cut from Park West. Co-chair Nancy Masterson gave out wrapped water-bottle clips.

This summer, watering the baby trees will continue on the first Monday morning of every month, led by Belinda Rossiter. You are needed! Participating is a great way to get acquainted with the Park West forest.

See page 3 of this newsletter for volunteer information!



L to R Kneeling: Donna Alvarado, Erica Taft, Nancy Masterson, Belinda Rossiter, Liz Keller.

Standing: Jack Jones, Damian Ramirez, Chris Gonazales, Craig Brusca, Chris Dyess, Canaan Henderson, Jim Salles, Craig Wagner, John Barrington, Annette Kowalchik, Dawn Durain, Jeff Hanselka and Pam Sagebiel.

Photo by Jennifer Ehlers



April 15 – May 15

2026 was the 30th anniversary for the Great Texas Birding Classic (GTBC) which is organized by Texas Parks and Wildlife. The GTBC is one of the largest and longest-running birdwatching tournaments in the country and raises funds for bird conservation and habitat projects across Texas.

If you are interested in birds, there are many ways to participate. This year, Guadalupe Master Naturalists participated in three tournament categories along with help from a couple of other chapters and individuals. All categories count species of birds seen during a set period.

Big Sit: The Big Sit participants stay in a 50-foot circle and counts species from before sunrise to sunset.

Intact Flock: Group stays together following a route within one of the TPWD designated regions.

Dispersed Flock: Up to five people bird individually within a specific region and then combined their sightings.

The main Big Sit for GMN was held on May 6 at Palmetto State Park for the ninth time. We had 17 participants on the Pileated Platoon of which 11 were GMN: Nancy Masterson, Rhonda Flores, Donna Alvarado, Lisa Walker, Lisa Schwartz, Bobby and Elaine Cowley, Dawn Durain, Sandi Wheeler, Martha Clark and Marilyn Anderson. Additionally, Lois Ricci from the Lindheimer and Jean Solona from the Lost Pines Chapters joined as well as Sky McWhorter (Park Interpreter) and several others. The species count this year was 48 and highlights of the day were watching a pair of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks build a nest in a tree hollow as well as an already occupied Black-chinned Hummingbird nest. Our namesake bird, the Pileated Woodpecker, made an appearance.



Donna Alvarado, Marilyn Anderson, Elaine Cowley, Martha Clark, Lisa Walker, Sandi Wheeler, Rhonda Flores and Lisa Schwartz



You can tell who are the real birders by the size of their binoculars!



Nancy Masterson and Dawn Durain



The Batty for Birds team held a Sunrise to Noon Big Sit at the Bracken Bat Cave on May 3. Team members included GMN Lisa Walker, Donna Alvarado, and Sandi Wheeler and from the Lindheimer Chapter members Linda Valdez and Lois Ricci. The team tallied 22 species for the morning.

GMN, Sandi Wheeler and Lisa Walker also participated in the Big Sit hosted by Guadalupe River State Park on May 9.

On May 5th Rampaging Roadrunners Intact Flock team members Donna Alvarado, Lisa Walker, Sandi Wheeler and Rhonda Flores spent the day birding across the Heart of Texas East Region. The team ended the day with 56 species identified.



Sandi Wheeler was also a member of a dispersed flock on April 27th that tallied 176 species across the Heart of Texas East Region.

The 2027 Great Texas Birding Classic will be April 15 – May 15, 2027. Come join us next year!

2026 City Nature Challenge Results

The City Nature Challenge is an international effort for people to find and document plants and wildlife in cities. It's an annual four-day global bioblitz at the end of April, where cities collaborate to see what can be accomplished when we all work toward a common goal.

From April 24–27, over 106,350 people across 754 cities, 61 countries, and 6 continents made over 3 million observations of **76,422+ species**, including more than **5,688 that are rare, threatened, or endangered**.

The San Antonio Metro Area City Nature Challenge came in first in the nation and 2nd in the world for the second year in a row with 4,816 species identified.

Several Members of the Guadalupe Master Naturalist Chapter contributed to the 2026 CNC. Ulli Judkins contributed the most observations (470) of 291 species. The GMN Guadalupe Wanders team of Elaine Cowley, Michelle Darnell, Lisa Walker, Donna Alvarado, Rhonda Flores, and Sandi Wheeler contributed 868 observations of 407 species across the area

Join us next year for the 2027 City Nature Challenge.

Guadalupe Master Naturalists Earth Day 2026



Guadalupe Master Naturalists Marilyn Anderson, John Barrington and Jennifer Ehlers organize the Chapter booth in anticipation of visitors to Earth Day in Central Park on Saturday, April 25. Our theme displayed the work done at Park West. Children decorated our tree with personalized leaves.



Diana Gonzales, Jennifer Ehlers, John Barrington, Chris Dyess, Marilyn Anderson and Pam Sagebiel represented our Chapter at Earth Day.

Two girls hang their decorated leaves on our tree



ADVANCED TRAINING

“Transforming a Barren Subdivision Lot to a Drought-Resistant, Wildlife-Friendly Native Garden” **Guadalupe Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas**

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM – Refreshments and Socialize

7:00 PM – Program

8:00 PM – Business Meeting

Location: St. John Lutheran Church, 600 S. Center St. (FM 465), Marion, TX.

Description: **Belinda Rossiter** moved to Seguin in February 2023. She had never been a Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) member before, but she had begun to learn about the benefits of native plants from a friend in Houston. When she arrived in Seguin, Belinda joined NPSOT and planned to learn as quickly as possible how to transform her barren, bermudagrass-filled subdivision lot into a healthy urban wildlife refuge. Through NPSOT and Texas Master Naturalists, Belinda found mentors and resources that could advise her on the journey, and has learned from making plenty of mistakes as well. She has also enjoyed journaling her progress in a blog called “RewildingMyLot.blog”. This presentation will describe progress, frustrations, and lessons learned.

Belinda Rossiter is retired from careers in medical genetics research and non-profit administration. She is now a certified Texas Master Naturalist, certified in Levels 1-4 of the Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) offered by NPSOT, and living her best life yet!

Groundwater in Texas: Aquifers, Policy, and Management **TMNTuesday**

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Online via Webex

Description: Speaker will be Adam Foster, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts. This presentation provides an overview of groundwater in Texas, including the major aquifers that supply water across the state and the policies and institutions that guide groundwater management. Topics will include the role of groundwater conservation districts (GCDs), state agencies involved in groundwater planning and regulation, and how Texas approaches groundwater management within the framework of Texas water law. The presentation will also explore current challenges facing groundwater resources and the importance of science-based management in a growing and drought-prone state.

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



If you are not registered to receive Listserv, here is the link <https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/email-listserv/>. You will receive email notifications of various opportunities and news.



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 May 2026

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

Marilyn Anderson

Elaine Cowley

Jennifer Ehlers

Nancy Masterson

Craig Wagner

A special thank you to our members who are setting a good example to us,
by recording all these volunteer hours.

250 Hours

Melissa Moon

500 Hours

Rhonda Flores

1000 Hours

Carolyn Wolfer



President Craig Bruska presents Bobcat pins to Jennifer Ehlers, Marilyn Anderson, Elaine Cowley, Craig Wagner and Nancy Masterson.

Upcoming Events

2026 Fall Training Class Meet & Greet Sessions

The deadline for applications to the 2026 Texas Master Naturalist training class is August 1. Classes run from August 4 to November 14 at Schertz Area Senior Center, 608 Schertz Pkwy, Schertz, TX 78154.

Before the application deadline, there are two Meet & Greet sessions for registered and potential training candidates to meet Master Naturalists and discuss the program. If you would like to meet these prospects and share your experience with the Master Naturalist program, please join us at one or both of these sessions:

- **Tuesday, July 14**, 6-7pm, at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Guadalupe County, 210 E Live Oak St, Seguin, TX 78155
- **Tuesday, July 21**, 6-7pm, at Schertz Area Senior Center, 608 Schertz Pkwy, Schertz, TX 78154



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 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 gmncal@guadmn.org.

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net by Friday, June 26 for the July issue.

Officers:

President – Craig Bruska
Vice-president – Jenn Jontry
Secretary – Belinda Rossiter
Treasurer – Chris Castoro

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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
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