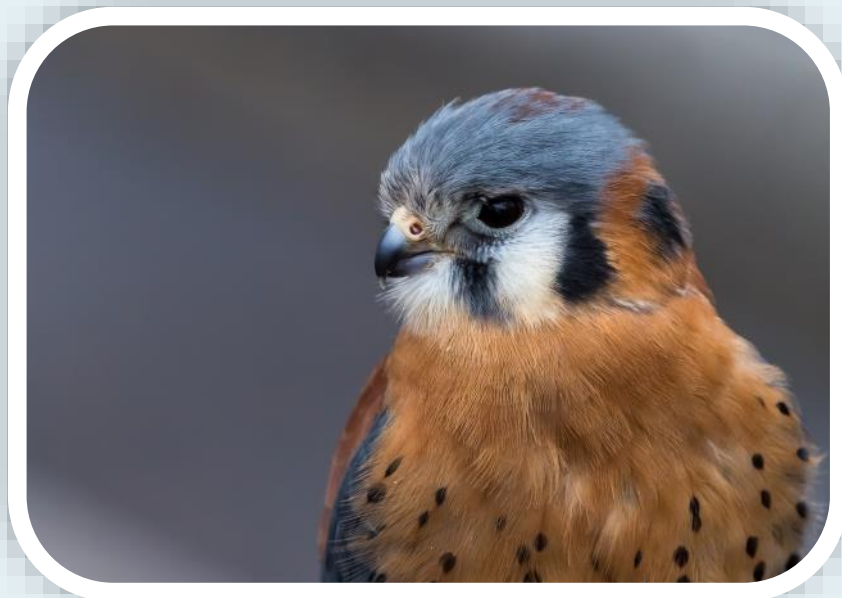


The Steward

December 31, 2023 Highland Lakes Master Naturalists Volume 14 Issue 5



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Please submit pictures, articles, reports, stories, announcements, etc. to

becky_breazeale@yahoo.com

Photos should have captions and appropriate credits. We will announce the deadline for submissions two weeks prior to the deadline. Or contact Becky and Martelle.

Thank y'all for ALL!!



Message from our President

By Roy Appleton

It's been a productive 20th-anniversary year in HLMN land. A good one for sure.

Through November, 121 chapter members (about 70 percent of our roster) had recorded 13,607 hours of volunteer service and 2,986 hours of advanced training. This year's training class compiled 1,121 volunteer hours for that 11-month period as well. Thanks to **Mary Ann Holt** for the numbers, and thanks to project leaders and site contacts for helping spread the words of opportunity.

This year's class of 24 has given the chapter a fresh charge of energy and enthusiasm. Such welcome additions in a year of membership losses, to death and relocations. Thanks, **Rick Vance** and **Paula Richards**, for your leadership in organizing and directing the training. Thanks, **Bill** and **Chris McCartney**, for leading next year's class. Thanks always to all volunteers for stepping up and out.

Other 2023 notables include (please excuse oversights):

* The spring birding trip to the Valley and the Galveston gathering this fall. Thanks, **Suzanne Adkinson**, **George Brugnoli** and other members of the trip committee.

* The chapter anniversary celebration. Thanks to **Jill Goff**, **Mary Ann** and **Lori Greco** for the preparations, chapter organizers **Wade Hibler** and **Bill Luedecke** for the recollections, and **Linda O'Nan**, **Karen McCurley** (classmates in 2003) and others for their stories.

* The new environmental education committee with a focus on rebuilding creating discovery trunks and furthering the chapter's public outreach. Thanks, **Paula, Suzanne** and **Jill** for leading the way.

* Another successful Great Outdoor Program at Inks Lake State Park. Thanks, organizer **Cathy Hill** and other participants.

* Updates to the chapter's bylaws and operating handbook. Thanks, **Stephen Harrell**.

* The addition of QuickBooks accounting software to improve chapter financial recordkeeping and budgeting. Thanks, **George Barr**.

* Sixteen site visits by the chapter's Land Management Assistance Program crew. Go, Team, Go!

* Repairs to the vandalized wildlife viewing station in Granite Shoals. Thanks to **Jerry Stacy** and **Fredi Franki** for the repair work. And to **Susan Neans, Sharon Drake** and **Fredi** for maintaining the station, built with chapter labor and funds.

* Upgrades to the Blanco State Park wildlife viewing station in concert with the park's friends group. Thanks, **Steve Scheffe, Al Lillis, Stephen, Suzanne, George Vavrek** and others.

* Revival of the chapter's [Instagram](#) presence. Thanks, **Peggy Schatz**. This complements our [Facebook](#) and [newsletter](#) connections with the public. Thanks, **Becky Breazeale** and **Martelle Luedecke**.

* The successful year-end celebration. Good food. Good people. All for the good of the chapter. The auction raised \$3,025 and donors added \$150, all for future chapter expenses. Thanks, **Suzanne** for organizing the auction. Thanks, **Karen Stewart** for leading the party planning. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the event. Cheers to you!

And thanks to **Suzanne** (she's everywhere) and her team for nominating next year's executive committee, voted into office (without a brawl or even a harsh word) at meeting's end: **Jill Goff**, president; **Mary Lott**, vice president; **Bill Edwards**, secretary; and **Krista Paul**, treasurer.

These and other chapter leaders, the skills and interests of our members, and our shared goals give us so many positives. Our record of service is rich, as is our potential.

Plans for 2024 are taking shape. The opportunities are out there - for volunteer service, new engagements and perhaps some new approaches, all to further our mission of helping others, Mother Nature and ourselves.

How fortunate we are. Bring on the new year. All in good time.

Roy Appleton

Congratulations to all our members for devoting so much time to the mission of our organization and the projects that we support. You deserve this recognition. VMS information

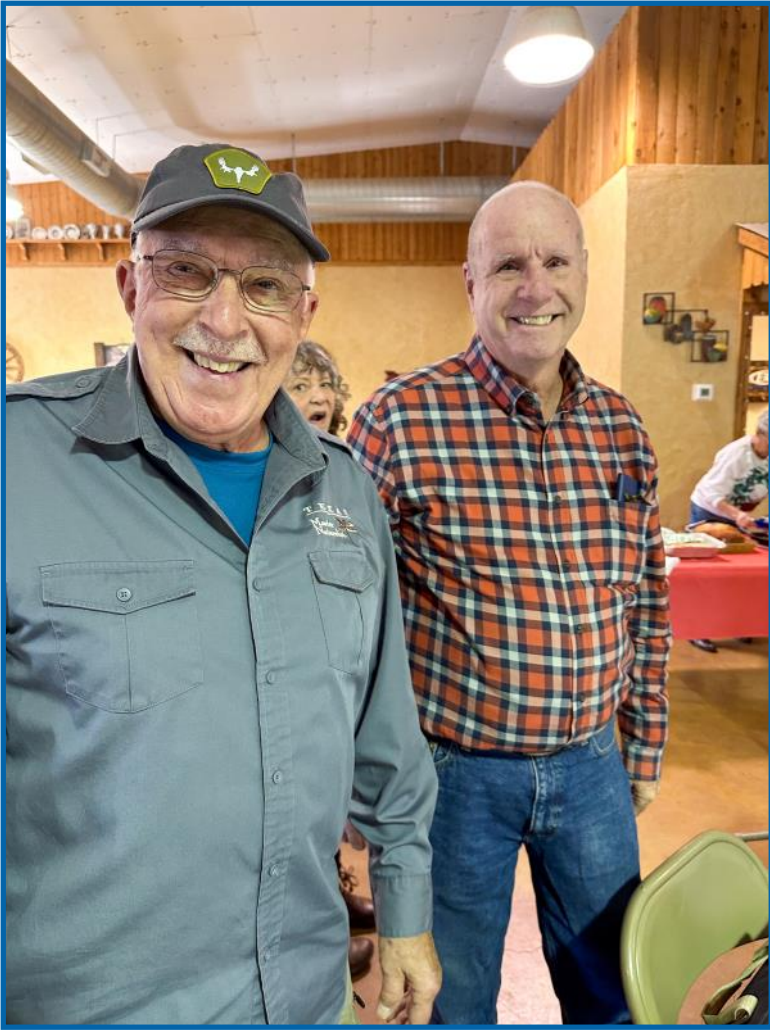
Courtesy of Mary Ann Holt



**2500
hours**

Huff, Melanie
Rodgers, Kristin
Winslow, Shirley
Wolff-Northup, Cris







1000 Hours

Griffis-Bailey, Kathleen
Harrell, Stephen
Holt, Mary Ann



500 Hours

Appleton II, Roy
Goff, Jill
Lillis, Al





250 Hours

Butler, Pamela
Clair, Lynne
Edwards, Bill
Hampton, Gary
Hansen, Mary Jo
Hoffmeister, Ingrid
Nabors Jr., Billy
Paul, Krista
Reimer, James
Stewart, Karen
Stracke, Terry
Watson, Jane

Note: Al Lillis also reached 250 hours in 2023, but then he moved up into the 500 hour category too, so VMS only reflected him there, not in the 250 hour list.



Class of 2023 Initial Certifications



250!! Hours!!



2023 re-certifications



Our illustrious 2024 Officers: **Krista Paul**, treasurer; **Bill Edwards**, secretary; **Jill Goff**, president; and **Mary Lott**, vice president.

Class of 2023

Double Certification -

80 Hrs VS plus 16 Hrs of AT

Brents, Karen

James, Meghan

Lillis, Jean

Powell, Charles

Purcell, James

Sullivan, Hugh

Sullivan, Pamela

Vavrek, Becki







Class of 2023 Initial Certifications - 40 Hours VS plus 8 Hours of AT

Blevins, William

Brents, Karen

Cambridge, Wendy

Fugler, Barbara

Houston, Catherine

Houston, Edward

James, Meghan

Lillis, Jean

Morris, Holly

Neans, Susan

Norman, Marylynn

Powell, Charles

Purcell, James

Rostomily, Regina

Smith, Lisa

Stripay, Lisa

Sullivan, Hugh

Sullivan, Pamela

Vavrek, Becki



2023 Recertifications

Adcock, Vicki

Adkinson, Suzanne

Andry, Deborah

Appleton III, Roy

Barr, George

Barr, Kaye

Bixler, Sherry

Blankenship, Beth

Bloomquist, Marvin

Breazeale, Rebecca

Brugnoli, George

Buchanan, Herbert

Butler, Pamela

Campbell, Patricia

Clair, Lynne

Cowey, Nadine

Cowey, Stephen

Cruikshank, Betty

Davis, Lyn

Dillon, Helen

Drake, Sharon

Duckworth, Melissa

Edwards, Ann

Edwards, Bill

Fox, Sondra

Goff, Jill

Greco, Lori

Griffis-Bailey, Kathleen

Hampton, Gary

Hansen, Mary Jo

Harrell, Patricia

Harrell, Stephen

Hill, Catherine

Hobbs, Eva

Hodges, Dianna

Hoffmeister, Ingrid

Holt, Mary Ann

Howell, James

Huff, Melanie

Hutson, William

James, Elizabeth

Kregel, Jeanne

Kuehne, Mary Grace

Lageman, Marilyn

Landherr, Chris

Lillis, Al

Lott, Mary

Luedecke, Martelle

Lundquist, Karen

McBride, Sharon

McCartney, William

Miller, Meijien

Nabors Jr., Billy

O'Nan, Linda

Parker, Karyn

Paul, Krista

Reimer, James

Riley, Mike

Rodgers, Kristin

Sanders, Debra

Schar, Jean

Scheffe, Stephen

Smith-Rodgers, Sheryl

Stacy, Jerry

Stewart, Karen

Stracke, Mark

Stracke, Terry

Struck, Jennifer

Suhey, Louise

Thorne, Mary

Vance, Richard

Vavrek, George

Walt, Pamela

Winslow, Shirley

Wolff-Northup, Cris

Wyde, Philip

Zagst, Fred

Zagst, Kay

T E X A S

MISSION



The Texas Master Naturalist program is a natural resource-based volunteer training and development program sponsored statewide by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



The mission of the program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the state of Texas

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