

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter

SEPTEMBER 2014

Volume 12

Number 9

photo by Ben Hutchins

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



SEPTEMBER MEETING: 120 YEARS OF BIOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF KARST AND CAVE CRITTERS

Dr. Ben Hutchins, invertebrate biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will speak on the history of biological exploration of Texas groundwater and current ecological research aimed at understanding the complex relationship between biodiversity and hydrology.

Everyone is welcome to join us on Monday, Sept. 22 at 7p.m. in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority lecture hall, 125 N. Lehman Drive in Kerrville. Arrive at 6:30 to chat with members and guests.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . Vern Crawford

The Class of 2014, comprised of a varied and multi-talented group of dedicated individuals and representing seven of our ten counties, is underway. For the past five weeks, they have been eagerly gathering at the Texas Lions Camp each Wednesday morning, on their journey toward earning their Texas Master Naturalist dragonfly wings.

These new folks are looking forward to meeting fellow Master Naturalists at the September 22 chapter meeting, which also presents the opportunity to earn credit towards their AT requirements. Our meetings are an excellent place to meet our new chapter members.

If you have not already done so, now is the time to register for the October 24th through 26th Annual State Meeting, which is returning to the heart of the Hill Country. What a beautiful and appropriate setting is the Mo Ranch Conference Center, along the headwaters of the Guadalupe River. The annual gathering is an opportunity to participate in a broad array of Advanced Training opportunities. I always have a difficult time deciding which sessions to attend, as there are always so many interesting topics.

Michelle Haggerty, our State Program Director and Chapter Advisor, reminds us that there are still opportunities to volunteer at the conference. Several of our chapter members have collaborated on donating several unique silent auction items. However, we could still use additional items for the event. Photographers, artists, and crafters, you are also encouraged to enter your works in the various contest categories.

I'm looking forward to this, my fourth State Meeting. It is so rewarding to re-connect and to network with Master Naturalists. This is such a great opportunity to welcome folks from all over the State and share some of the wonders of our unique part of the state. The recent rains and cooler weather make way for a blaze of glorious autumn colors.

See you at the meeting,

Vern



Initial Certification

Karen Burkett

Special Recertification

Karen Burkett Lucy Griffith

2014 Recertification

Terri Criswell Jan Grimes Sharon Hixson Jim Jones Myrna Langford Sharon Rodriguez

Milestones

Terri Criswell, Nancye Drukker, Liz Ross - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours

Ann Dietert, Bob Wiedenfeld - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours

Floyd Trefny - Polished Silver Dragonfly, 2500 hours

15th Annual Statewide Meeting & Advanced Training

T E X A S



Mo Ranch Conference Center
Hunt, Texas
October 24-26th, 2014

OUR 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."



This year's annual meeting is proudly sponsored by:



Register by October 5

https://www.regonline.com/TMN_15th_Annual_Meeting

Texas Master Naturalist-Hill Country Chapter
& Riverside Nature Center Invite you to...

Native Plant Sale & Festival



Saturday • October 4th

8am
to
3pm



Free
Family
Fun

2014

Native Tree & Plant Sale

A large variety of trees, shrubs and flowering perennials that grow well in the Hill Country will be for sale.

Experienced Plant Docents available to help & advise.

Nature Presentations

"Inside the World of Aquatic Invertebrates"

- Tara Bushnoe - 10am

Aquatic invertebrates are an integral part of the Guadalupe River ecosystem. Water bugs are often overlooked, but are an essential component of the food chain as well as an indicator of water quality. Tara, Natural Resources Coordinator for the UGRA, introduces us to some of the most common aquatic invertebrates and will share tips about what you can do to preserve their habitat.

"The Weird Science of Backyard Birds"

- Kevin Pillow - 11:30am

Kevin, owner of *Kerrville Wild Birds Unlimited*, will discuss proper backyard feeding techniques for a better understanding of clean, critter free supplemental feeding that will provide more nutritional foods that can benefit our backyard birds. He will also discuss how to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count and the best ways to count for more accurate and fun input.

Informative Exhibits & Displays

Ask the Plant Expert Riverside Nature Center Association

Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter

Native Healing Garden Wings Over the Hills

Native Plant Society of Texas - Kerrville Chapter

Kerr County Cactus and Succulent Society

Hill Country Master Gardeners Texas Public Radio

UGRA - Water Quality & Conservation

Hill Country Fly Fishers



Live Butterfly Tent 9am - 1pm

Including Life Cycle Specimens, Migration Display & Education

Free Fun Kids Activities

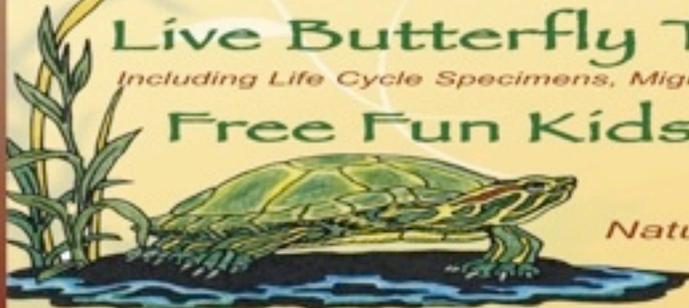
9am - 11:30am &

12:30pm - 2:30pm

Nature Walk with Angelo

10:am - Noon

Check for Details



For Detailed Information: 830-257-4837

www.riversidenaturecenter.org

150 Francisco Lemos Street • Kerrville, Texas 78028

The Class of 2014



Arlene Ringer is a fifth generation Texan who moved around a lot as a child, following her Dad's employment, and then also as her own work as a teacher and coach required. She graduated from Tarleton State University, has recently retired from teaching physical education in grade school and science in high school, and now lives in Junction. Her interest in becoming a Master Naturalist stems from experiencing five years of L.A.N.D.S. field trips in her classes. Arlene is especially interested in volunteer activities that involve helping youth learn to appreciate the land and all of its resources, and hopes to work as a volunteer for the L.A.N.D.S. program.

Aspasia Erian was born in Montreal and graduated from McGill university with majors in linguistics and minored in business administration. Aspasia and Ralph married in Montreal and a few years later moved to San Antonio, where he is an anesthesiologist. She has served on numerous medical association boards. Presently she is on the board of Any Baby Can, a nonprofit which offers families of children with special needs guidance and support. She also serves on the board of the Family Justice Center, a nonprofit which provides services and resources to victims of domestic violence. Aspasia and Ralph have a home in San Antonio and recently purchased a ranch in Center Point.



Barbara Marquer (Mar-kay') was born in St. Louis, Missouri, moved to Bellaire, Texas at age four, and lived there until she left for college. She earned her degree in Medical Technology at Lamar University in Beaumont. Barbara lived on a ranch in Hardin for seven years, raising Santa Gertrudis cattle and riding her horses, before moving to 10 acres in Splendora and building a house that was home for 12 years before moving to Kerrville 24 years ago. She retired after many years in medical laboratory sales and 16 years in Peterson Regional Medical Center's chemistry department. Barbara and her good friend Edith Bettinger, a well-known native plant expert, were original members of the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Becky Kneupper lives in Bandera; previously she lived in Houston, California, and Saudi Arabia with her husband and two daughters. Her husband has been a master naturalist for several years. She is a Marriage and Family Therapist with a private practice in Bandera. She lives on her great grandparents' land in Bandera and wants to be a good steward of that land. This program is her opportunity to learn more and then teach others, especially children. Her grandmother was proud to tell her that everything they were eating was from the land, and she appreciates the work the generations before her did to make a living off of the land.



Bobby Gierisch retired after working for 25 years in state government agencies, including state legislature, and now works with several non-profit corporations focused on developing vibrant rural communities. Bobby's roots are in Streeter, in western Mason County, where his family has owned rural property since the 1940s. He holds degrees from the University of Texas and the University of North Carolina, and taught at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, before returning to Texas and beginning his career in state government. He and his wife Diane divide their time between Austin and Streeter, and enjoy traveling to cooler climates in July and August. He is especially interested in improving the health, diversity, and sustainability of the family property.

Brenda Fest grew up in San Antonio, moved to Austin, and earned her degree in Botany as well as her master's and Ph.D. in Science Education at the University of Texas, Austin. She married her high school sweetheart, taught science at various high schools in Texas, and was a learning science specialist at the UT Learning Center for ten years. Gary and Brenda moved to Pipe Creek in 2003 and Brenda taught biology and aquatic science at Clark High school in San Antonio; she retired this year. She has always enjoyed gardening with native plants that attract butterflies. She is looking forward to being more involved in her hill country community and learning how she can contribute to keeping it healthy and beautiful.





Bridget Langdale was born in Houston and explored life in Houston, Galveston, and Fayette Counties, but primarily in Central Texas (Hunt and Ingram, as well as Mason, where she lives now). She earned a BFA degree in Art Education, a Masters in Religious Education, and a DTM from Toastmasters. Bridget worked as an art teacher and at a bank, owned a career/management consultant firm, and now is the proprietor of the Covered Wagon B&B and an artist at Painted Tree Studio. As the Star Captain of Mason's astronomy club, engaged in educating about the importance of dark skies, she encourages others to see the interconnectedness of earth, sky, nature, art, and humankind--and thus, our responsibility for stewardship.

Carla Brady was born in Brenham and grew up in El Campo. She received a BS degree in Medical Technology from Texas State and an MS degree in Biology from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, and worked as a Medical Technologist in hospitals in Houston and Temple. Also, she taught biology and microbiology at the college level, was a Research Scientist, and a Marketing Director. Carla recently retired and became a volunteer at the ABK State Natural Area in Pipe Creek, where she lives. For the last 25 years she's explored thousands of miles of trails in the southwest, including riding the trails at Hill Country State Natural Area since 1993. Her major interests are natural history, biology, biochemistry, and exploring new areas and trails.



Chris Anderson trained as a mathematician in Santa Barbara, Seattle and Germany before moving to Washington, DC for what turned out to be a career in U.S. defense and intelligence work. He finally came to his senses when he and his wife Kay moved in 2013 from his last assignment in Paris, France to Fredericksburg in the beautiful Texas Hill Country to cycle, be closer to family, and get as far from city insanity as they could get. After thousands of miles cycling on the back roads and hiking in the parks, and learning a little bit about the native plants and flowers all around us via the NPSOT (and a camera and a well-thumbed guide), he is eager to learn more and do whatever he can to help preserve the natural goodness we all enjoy.



Chris Keating was born in Fort Worth but his father was in the oil business, so they lived all over, mostly in small towns. Growing up in the country gave him a life-long love of nature and the physical sciences, which inspired him to apply for the Master Naturalist program. Chris earned his doctorate in physics from the University of Texas, Dallas and was a professor of physics, teaching at the University of South Dakota, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy. He was also a career member of the Navy and Navy Reserve until retiring to Mason two years ago, and now devotes his time to writing and doing research on climate change.



Diane Gierisch retired after 20 years in Information Technology at the University of Texas, Austin; she was the UT Webmaster when she retired in 2008. She grew up in Houston and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from UT-Austin. For the next 30 years or so she divided her time between her husband and two children and a career in Information Technology. Diane's love of country life began in childhood, during time at a family ranch in Leon County. Her love for the Hill Country grew with more and more time at her husband's family property in Mason County. Now that Diane and her husband are both retired, they spend a lot more time in Streeter. Diane enjoys learning about the geology, flora, and fauna of this unique property.



Donna Dutton was born in Fort Worth and lived for many years in Austin; she also lived in Denver and Mexico City before running away to the Hill Country about 15 years ago. Donna earned a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Texas, Austin. Thirteen years ago she bought a small run-down ranch south of Cherokee in San Saba County, and is happily spending the rest of her life there, restoring habitat, increasing diversity, and enjoying nature. She makes her living as a Computer Consultant/Programmer for SAS Institute Inc., a software company based in North Carolina, and works from home. Donna has done a lot of outdoor volunteer work with the Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, and looks forward to continuing that as a Master Naturalist, along with many other exciting volunteer opportunities.





Ed Booker is a native Californian who moved to Texas from his home in Sonora, California in 2009 after retiring from the United States Forest Service; he was a “River Ranger” on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River. Ed was raised on a small angora goat ranch in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. In college he received formal training in the biological sciences and earned a BS degree in Biology from the California State University, Chico. After college he returned to help his father with the ranch. He and Susan now live on nine (plus) acres just outside of Junction. They have a Wildlife Exemption for Song Birds and have installed a rain recovery system that fully supplies their household needs.

Eva Broad was born and raised in Switzerland. She earned a degree in home economics and art and taught special needs children in Switzerland for twelve years. Since moving to Texas in 1995, Eva has wanted to learn about the natural world of her new country. Her passion for organic gardening and preparing healthy food was easily seen in the meals she prepared at Eva’s Holtzer House Café in Llano. Although now retired from the restaurant business, she continues to share her enthusiasm for organic gardening, and especially, for heirloom tomatoes. She and her husband enjoy traveling and canoeing the Rio Grande, Pecos, and Llano Rivers. They live outside of Pontotoc.



Gary Fest was born in San Antonio and grew up loving the Hill Country and nature. He earned his BS degree in Biology at Texas A&I University in Kingsville. Gary’s first real job was with the USDA in Lubbock, researching drought tolerance in crops. He then got married and moved to Austin to work for the Texas Department of Health in the Environmental Chemistry Lab. Upon retirement, he moved to Pipe Creek to build a house and get established on his land. To help his daughter through college, he went back to work at the Southwest Research Institute and then, at the University of Texas Health Science Center.

Heather Harris was born in Connecticut and raised in Missouri, Kansas, Arizona, and Hawaii. She received her teaching degree from Emporia State University in Kansas and her nursing degree from Labette Community College, also in Kansas. Heather taught fifth grade math and science in Crystal City and grades K-12 in Kansas and Connecticut. She is a Viet Nam era veteran who served in the Army as a medic, and retired after 24 years as a Registered Nurse. Heather has lived in the Hill Country for 14 years; currently, her home is on seven acres in Center Point. She is a water conservationist who harvests rain water for all her household and ranch needs. She cares for two donkeys, one horse, and two dogs.



Jay Munson was born and raised in Minnesota, where he enjoyed the outdoors, working on farms, and playing sports. After serving in the U.S. Air Force (and later, in the Army) he earned his teaching credentials from the University of North Texas. He was a high school teacher for 30 years, working in special education departments and also as a health instructor and coach. Currently he lives in Kerrville, raises cattle, is building a rustic cabin, and is working with the land on his 50 acres. Also, he plays bass guitar in two local bands. Taking his dog to the park and working out at the Kroc Center are part of his day.

Judy Gausnell grew up in San Angelo attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, and Parsons School of Design in New York City, where she earned advanced degrees with honors in fashion. Judy moved to Dallas, worked in the fashion and hotel industries, and was comfortable with growing plants in pots there. She moved to the Hill Country in 2008 and worked as the Director of Sales/Marketing at Mo-Ranch in Hunt. Watching kids at Mo-Ranch learn to appreciate nature taught her the value of teaching respect for the environment from a very young age. Subsequently, she became a Riverside Guide at the Riverside Nature Center. She lives in Kerrville and maintains a business as a Performance Consultant.





Judy Liljestrand was born and raised in Corpus Christi, received a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Texas, a Master of Science in education from Corpus Christi State University, and a Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She taught elementary school in Corpus Christi for 10 years before pursuing a career in ministry, retired in 2011, and moved to Kerrville in 2012. Judy has loved the Hill Country since she came camping here when her children were young, wants to learn more about this area, and would particularly like to share her love of nature and the importance of caring for it with children.

Kay Harter retired to the Hill Country two years ago from the Florida gulf coast where, as a member of the Florida Trail Association, she helped to develop and maintain the Florida Scenic Trail. She grew up in Corpus Christi, started vacationing with her family here in the 1950s, and has been cycling in the Hill Country with her husband, Rick, since the 1970s. Kay graduated from Texas Woman's University, earned a Masters degree from Texas Tech, and is a retired occupational therapist. She enjoys hiking, bicycling, camping, tennis, golf, sailing, skiing, and swimming. She hopes to employ many of the skills she learned in Florida in volunteer projects here. Kay volunteers at the Riverside Nature Center as a Riverside Docent and a helper in the garden areas. She also volunteers in the Town Creek cleanup.



Ken Hilleman is originally from St. Louis and moved to Houston to join the Houston Police Department Homicide Division. He is married to Reidun Hilleman, an active member of our chapter; they've lived in Boerne for about eight years. Now that he is retired from the police department, he is employed as the Buildings and Grounds Manager at the Cibolo Nature Center and Farm where—since he is an enthusiastic handy man—he keeps things in shape. Ken loves the outdoors, including hunting; he shoots with the Texas State Skeet Shooting Association and is a volunteer coach with the Bandera County 4H Shooting Club. His interests include Habitat Restoration, Land Management and the Plant and Wildlife Census.

Larry Altman was born in Memphis, Texas. He graduated from McMurry College with a B.A. degree in Sociology and from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, with a Master of Theology degree. He retired recently after a career as a United Methodist pastor and lives in Kerrville. Larry grew up on a farm in the Texas Panhandle and a significant part of his spiritual formation took place in being involved in agriculture and nature. Now that he is retired, with plenty of time, good health, and a mind curious for more knowledge, he wants to give back to nature by working as a Master Naturalist volunteer. He is especially interested in nature restoration projects and, after some training, becoming a guide for nature trails.



Lee Burton was born in Kerrville and graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He lived and worked overseas for many years, developing websites and mobile applications in Germany and England as well as in China, where he worked on a summer internship for the Nature Conservancy. He also volunteered with the Nature Conservancy in southeast Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and most recently at the Davis Mountains and Love Creek preserve in Medina. He is certified by CyberTracker in wildlife tracking and is experienced in wilderness survival and primitive skills. He now lives in Kerrville and want to increase his understanding of Hill Country terrain, geology, wildlife, and plant life.

Marianne Doran attended Bellaire High School in Houston, went to a women's college in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and to graduate school at Duke University. Her career as a professional writer began as an editor and writer at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. From there she became managing editor of a national physician's magazine and then, after she and her husband John became parents and moved to Kerrville in 1996, she became a freelance writer and editor for a slew of national medical/health publications. She has a keen interest in the problem of light pollution and its many deleterious effects. In addition to continuing as a writer and editor, she is a realtor in Kerrville.





Mary Thomas was born and raised in mid-Missouri. After college in the Boston area and graduate school in Chapel Hill, NC, she spent 25 years in Galveston, where she was on the faculty of the University of Texas Medical Branch. After retiring from UTMB, she worked at a U.S. medical school in Dominica. Three years ago, Mary and her husband began relocating to their new home near Ingram; they became full-time residents this year. She is enjoying working with others to develop a NPSOT demonstration garden at Riverside Nature Center and is looking forward to learning more about the ecology of the Hill Country.

Michael Leep was born in Indiana, spent his early years in Illinois, and worked most of his adult life in Texas. After retiring as a Safety Engineer for Baker Hughes, an oilfield services company, he moved from Crosby to a 30 acre property just south of Junction. Mike's spouse, Donna Oliver-Leep, is a Hill Country Master Naturalist; she is the project coordinator for three projects in Kimble County to which he has contributed, and he is amenable to exploring projects in other counties. He is devoted to improving his property through brush clearing, restoring native grasses, fencing, a garden and orchard, and keeping a small herd of goats. He and Donna give special attention to the riparian portion of their property along the South Llano River.



Pam McKinley happily retired in December of last year from a career as an attorney in the oil and gas industry, based primarily in Houston. She was born in Winnipeg, Canada, graduated from the University of Houston, and has lived her adult life mainly in Texas. She is married to Bob McKinley, a Hill Country Master Naturalist. Pam and Bob live on a small Hill Country property near Pipe Creek that provides habitat for lots of small animals, including deer, raccoons, rabbits, and many varieties of birds and butterflies. Pam is especially interested in projects that support wildlife habitat or that protect native soils, trees, and grasslands.

Peggy Carnahan was born in Bandera and lived for many years in San Antonio, where she attended St. Mary's and Incarnate Word universities. She recently moved to Helotes and is a member of Boerne NPSOT. As a high school science teacher, she taught about Texas ecoregions and now she teaches that subject on the graduate level at Our Lady of the Lake University. While directing a master's program for science and math teachers, she participated in GLOBE, an international citizen science program for kindergarten through college. Recently she added ACORN (Area Children Organizing and Restoring Natives) to the GLOBE program. When ACORN extends to the Hill Country, she hopes to see a Master Naturalist volunteering with each ACORN school.



Robin Graham retired from computer repair and moved to northern Kimble County 14 years ago after 20 years in Nacogdoches County. Her college studies and five years as a USAF medic pointed her toward a career in wildlife photography/illustration, but that diverted to commercial art in the 1980's. Robin has lived and traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada and now shares 50 acres, a dozen goats, and two donkeys with her newlywed husband, Tim; they're doing xeriscaping and rainwater collection. Robin expects this training to be a foundation for lifelong learning and community involvement, as well as for managing their own piece of paradise.

Robin May escaped the city life of Houston in December 2012 to settle in Fredericksburg. She grew up in Ohio, graduated from Bowling Green State University, and pursued a career in Medical Technology. After marrying Bruce, a geologist, they moved to his job in Houston. Outside of work she fulfilled a childhood dream by volunteering at the Houston Zoo as a docent for two years. Educating first and fifth graders from inner city schools about animals as well as working on the zoo grounds was gratifying and fun. In 1999, Bruce's job took the family to Egypt for five years and to Trinidad for three years, and enabled extensive travel. Experiencing so many diverse ecosystems piqued her fascination with animals, plants, and their adaptations.





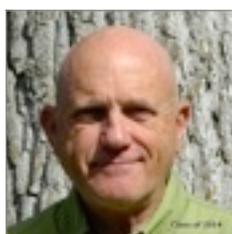
Ron Lehman is originally from Illinois and more recently, from Galveston. He has degrees in Marine Science and Marine Resource Management, was a researcher with the Oceanographic and Environmental Research program at Texas A & M, and taught science for four years in San Antonio. Ron and his wife, Cheryl, a retired professor from the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, live in Boerne. Ron volunteers with the Texas Stream Team collecting water quality data from Upper Cibolo Creek near his home. He is especially interested in working with students and adults to enhance their understanding of how making one change to a Hill Country biome can have wide ranging affects.

Rose Ellis is originally from Tennessee. She graduated from Williams College in Massachusetts and Duke Law School in North Carolina. After 33 years in Chicago as a corporate lawyer and commuting to the Hill Country since 2005, Rose retired last October and lives in Fredericksburg with her husband, Texas Master Naturalist Russell Vowell, and their three dogs and cat. She plans to continue her activities with the Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT and the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center. Rose looks forward to cleaning up the stretch of the Pedernales River near her home and finding opportunities to work with area Girl Scouts. She enjoys hiking with Russell in Big Bend National Park as well as biking, kayaking, and yoga.



Susan Booker is a native Californian who moved to Texas in 2009. She was born in a small town in the Sierra Foothills and worked at gardening and helping with all the chores needed on her family's small ranch outside of town. She retired from the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Business Office. She is very interested in birding and making our property a good habitat for various species. She enjoys sewing, quilting, reading, and traveling and sitting outside in the mornings and evenings watching the wildlife. Since they have limited water we do most of our landscaping with rock and drought tolerant plants.

Susan McKinley is originally from Pearsall and has resided in the Kerrville area for over 30 years. She received her degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio and was an elementary school teacher who retired in 2013 after 25 years of teaching in Kerrville. She loves teaching, and volunteers at Riverside Nature Center with the children's programs and working in the gardens, along with volunteering at the Kroc center in the after-school children's programs. She enjoys camping, hiking, kayaking, gardening, and reading and is particularly interest in habitat restoration. Her family's ranch in south Texas has been taken out of crop production and is slowly being restored to its natural state, so that it can qualify for a wildlife valuation.



Tim Graham is a native of Junction and is now retired. He earned a BBA from Texas State University and an MA in Theology from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana. After 28 years in law enforcement and criminal justice he went into full time ministry as a pastor and taught theology in San Angelo. He and his wife Robin live on 50 acres in Kimble County. Tim's main interest is to learn how to be a good steward of the property and he looks forward to sharing what he learns. He and Robin have a great love of the outdoors and spend much time hiking, camping, cycling and kayaking. Other interests include writing, shooting sports, and grandkids.

Tyra Cox Kane's ancestors arrived in Texas around 1845. She was raised in Fredericksburg by parents who were passionate community volunteers and earned a BA in Nutrition from the University of Texas, Austin and a Masters degree from Texas Woman's University, Houston. Tyra is a Nutrition Support/Clinical Dietitian at Peterson RMC. She lived in Houston, San Antonio, on Medina Lake, and now lives near Comfort with her husband, Kinney, on 200 acres, blessed with native wildlife and plants. She is a TPWL Certified cowbird trapper who loves photographing Painted Buntings and nesting Canyon Wrens and has caged, and so saved, the 42 Texas Hill Country Priority Plants. Tyra is considered "batty" by friends because of four bat houses, frequent bat rescues, and her Texas DSHS Bat Rehabilitation certificate.



The Class of 2014



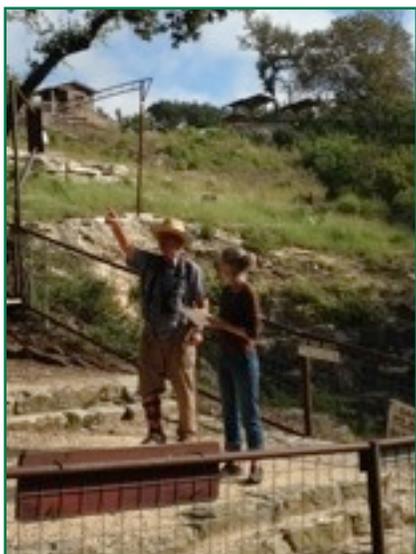
Thank you to Sally Garrett for the Class of 2014 photos.

From Eileen Gotke

News From Old Tunnel

Nyta Brown, the Old Tunnel State Park Superintendent, reports that the Old Tunnel bird survey walks led by Myrna Langford and Ron Hood are important to the park because they help in the continued conservation of the site.

Myrna and Ron, along with Dale Bransford, Bebe Hammock, and Eileen Gotke, helped with the bird survey on September 9th. Noteworthy sightings included an early Winter Wren and lots of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Also noted were large numbers of White-eyed Vireo and the Blue-gray Gnatcatchers that clearly were migrants. There were 25 species reported.



You may find the Old Tunnel survey report by checking the eBird checklist on the website, www.ebird.org. Look for eBird Report – Old Tunnel SP (HOTW 080) Kendall, US-TX, Sept. 9, 2014, 8:20 AM – 11:30 AM. Thanks to Ron Hood, Old Tunnel is in the top 10 eBird surveys in Kendall County. HNMN members interested in participating in Old Tunnel bird survey walks may email Myrna Langford at mfl@hctc.net for the upcoming dates.

Changing the subject to bats, because Old Tunnel IS all about the bats, please don't miss seeing the year's largest population of Mexican Free-tailed bats emerge from the tunnel before the bat season draws to an end officially on October 31st. Currently Old Tunnel is home to between two and three million Mexican Free-tailed bats and a few thousand Cave Myotis bats. The best bat viewing is now! With cooler temps, the bats will be transitioning and then heading off to Mexico. Bring the grandkids or out-of-town guests you are showing around the Hill Country. Check for emergence times by Googling Old Tunnel

State Park and going to the website or Facebook page.

The Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) will meet on Monday, October 13th, at 5p.m.. Come at 4:30 for social time and refreshments. The speaker will be Cathy Downs; her topic will be "Monarchs and Milkweeds." She'll discuss Monarch anatomy, biology, life cycle and migration, including the migration decline and the reasons for their habitat decimation. Cathy will identify local native milkweeds and nectar plants, and she will talk about the importance of native and non-systemically treated milkweeds and nectar plants in the Monarch habitat and why that is crucial to Monarch survival.



Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

8/8/2014 Dead Plant Material is Valuable: Don't Throw It Away
8/15/2014 What A Difference A Fence Makes
8/22/2014 What Our Native Critters Eat
8/29/2014 Just-In-Time Rain

These and all other previous Kerrville Daily Times columns can be found at
www.hillcountrynaturalist.org

From John Watson

Xeriscaping List

Can you help me compile a resource list for Xeriscaping? Fredericksburg SHINES is on a mission to make Fredericksburg and Gillespie County the most sustainable area in Texas. One of our initiatives is about smart water solutions. Toward that end, I am compiling an area xeriscaping resource list for homeowners and businesses that want to begin xeriscaping. Can you recommend area nurseries, landscapers, low-flow drip irrigation installers, experts, educators, and web sites that should be included on this list? Please contact me with your suggestions for the list, or to learn more about our organization, at john@fbgshines.org.

John Watson is the Executive Director of Fredericksburg SHINES (a 501(c)3 non-profit).

From Michelle Haggerty

Do you want a TMN or Dragonfly License Plate?

This is your chance to vote for it. In 2015, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will release a new specialty license plate for vehicles, trailers, RVs or motorcycles. Sales from this plate will benefit native Texas wildlife. Take the survey to help decide which plate to produce. The new plate will join TPWD's family of existing plates: Bluebonnet, Horned Lizard, Bass, Deer, and Camping. Anyone can vote; share this with your friends!



Visit the survey at <https://survey.tpwd.state.tx.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=882M6p7> and vote on the TMN Dragonfly plate as the next Conservation License Plate for Texas.

Hill Country Agri-Land Workshop, October 16, 2014

Alamo Resources Conservation & Development Area Inc. will host this workshop. It is free and open to the public. It will be held at the Kronkosky Place (Rainbow Center) at 17 Old San Antonio Road in Boerne, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Farmers, ranchers, landowners, and the general public from the Hill Country and surrounding areas are invited to attend. Topics to be covered are range/brush management, USDA 2014 Farm Bill updates, farm loan programs, technical assistance for agricultural producers, financial records keeping and a Backyard Basics program. A free lunch will be provided along with two CEUs to private applicator holders; also free door prizes. Pre-registration is required; call the Kendall County Agrilife Extension Office at 830-249-9343. Go to www.alamorcd.org for a copy of the agenda.

Nature Walks at Hill Country State Natural Area

Beginning this summer the Hill Country State Natural Area (HCSNA) began to host Nature Walks. Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) Leanne Beauxbeannes, an interpretive park ranger, has initiated this series. The first Nature Walk was in early August and was about learning to identify birds by hearing their songs. It was led by Richard Redmond and Scott Magee, a member of our Hill Country Chapter.

On August 23rd Leanne led an informative and entertaining Nature Walk on native and introduced prairie grasses. Participants in this walk included several members of our Hill Country Chapter (Rheda Boardman, Ann Dietert, Anne Cassidy, Gloria Costello, Virginia de Wolf, Karla Trefny, and Kathy Ward) as well as Diane Dismukes, regional cultural resource specialist from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and Tim Colton, equestrian and horse trainer. We admired and learned to recognize different grasses growing at the HCSNA -- identifying their seedheads/inflorescences was very helpful. Leanne provided handouts and many participants contributed to our education about grasses.

Leanne has a wide range of topics for additional monthly Nature Walks at the beautiful HCSNA, including

Those remarkable riparian plants: a walk along the West Verde Creekside

Trees, vines, and shrubs of the Hill Country: an easy climb to see those limestone natives

Ethnobotany: discover how the ancient people lived off this land including a visit to a burned rock midden with a TPWD archeologist

Geology and fossils: to explore what we see on the surface and take a trip back in geological time

Wildflower walks: both Fall and Spring

Many of these will be offered as Advanced Training.

Please email Leanne <Leanne.beauxbeannes@tpwd.texas.gov> if you would like to be on her email list for reminders of these programs.



Rainwater Revival Returns to Dripping Springs on October 25

By Lauren Chernow

Look to the sky for your water supply—and learn how to capture and use it at the fifth annual Rainwater Revival, which returns to Dripping Springs on October 25. The popular and free edu-fest event is put on by the Hill Country Alliance.

“We began our part-educational, part-fun fest in Dripping Springs in 2010, and after two years there we took the event on the road to other parts of the Hill Country,” said Event Chair Karen Ford. “We’re happy to be coming ‘home’ to share the latest information about rainwater conservation and harvesting at Dripping Springs Ranch Park. With increasing population growth and development, we know there continues to be a huge interest in rainwater harvesting to take some pressure off local aquifers and dwindling surface water supplies.”

Since the start of the annual event, thousands of people—both novices and experienced rainwater harvesters—have learned the latest in rainwater catchment techniques for both indoor and outdoor use from an array of experts, speakers and exhibitors. At the same time, the family-friendly Rainwater Revival offers food, music and conservation-themed arts and crafts for the kids. Once again, rain barrels turned in to functional works of art by Hill Country artists will be auctioned off in order to provide grants to Hill Country schools for conservation activities.

“While the drought is still seriously affecting our public water supplies, we know the Hill Country receives enough rain events to fill tanks and provide an ongoing water supply to savvy rainwater harvesters,” said Hill Country Alliance’s Christy Muse. “Once someone sees how simple it is to collect and use rainwater captured on their own property, they’re hooked.”

Homeowners who live entirely on rainwater, along with professional rainwater catchment system designers and installers, and experienced do-it-yourselfers, will share information throughout the one-day event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More information can be found at: rainwaterrevival.com



Photo courtesy of Innovative Water Solutions

Reprinted from the Hill Country Alliance’s Neighbor to Neighbor News, Aug. 27, 2014

Riverside Nature Center Events

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Second Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn

Jonah Evans, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department mammalogist, will speak on the cougars who roam the Texas Hill Country. Cost, \$5 members, \$8 others; free, if joining at the meeting.

Thursday, Oct. 16, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

RNC naturalist and co-founder Susan Sander will introduce naturalist Dorothy Matizza, who earned her salt as a native plant identification specialist over a three-year period on and near her Gunsight Ranch in Tarpley. She combed the creeks and high meadows, and the open fields and rocky mountain tops, of the Texas Hill Country, studying and documenting. Riverside Nature Center and the local chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas called on Matizza to contribute the amazing and beautiful botanical scans that were included in the nature center’s collaboration with NPSOT, “Wildflowers & Other Natives” (closing on Oct. 18).

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7-8:30 p.m.

Kim Lohmeyer’s ‘Creepy Crawlers’: Just in time for Halloween, it’s a menagerie of gross-out bugs by USDA research entomologist Kim Lohmeyer. Add to the fun by dressing as a favorite insect.

Cibolo Nature Center Events

Cibolo Nature Club: Medicinal Plants of the Texas Hill Country

CNC Auditorium, Sept. 18, 6-8 p.m.; Free

Everyone is invited to join us for our first ever Cibolo Nature Club evening at the Cibolo Nature Center. We will enjoy drinks and a bit of social time before a fascinating presentation by a regional expert. Daneshu Clarke will be discussing the medicinal plants of the Texas Hill Country, which parts of the plants are most useful and ways to prepare plants for consumption. She will host a display of her concoctions throughout the evening and ready to answer your questions about their medicinal properties and uses.

Introduction to Birding

CNC Auditorium, Sept. 20, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.; Cost: CNC Members \$20/person; non-members \$25/person.

Avid birders and Master Naturalists Tom and Patsy Inglet share tools, tips, and techniques that allow you to start birding like a pro. From where and when to find birds, to the clues that identify them, this workshop provides information and field practice needed to make the most of your birding experience. Additionally, participants will learn how to use a field guide and how to choose a good pair of binoculars. Following the workshop, be sure to attend one of the Incidental Bird Counts to further develop your birding skills.

Incidental Bird Count

CNC, Sept. 22, 25, 27, 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.; Free.

Join a team of citizen scientists and bird enthusiasts to conduct a bird census at the Nature Center. This is an excellent opportunity to see migrant and resident birds of a natural area that includes woodland, prairie, marsh and cypress lined Cibolo Creek. You will learn how you can census birds in your own backyard, while enjoying a beautiful morning walk with a friendly group of birders. With a checklist in hand, you will find these walks to be easy and fun! Bring a hat and binoculars. We do have binoculars if you need to borrow some. For more information and to sign up, contact Donna Taylor at Donna@Cibolo.Org. A link to register can also be found at www.Cibolo.org by searching the calendar for the "Fall Incidental Bird Count."

Wildlife Field Research Week

Cibolo Nature Center & Farm, Oct. 6 -11 This is a week long bioblitz conducted every spring and fall at CNC. During this research event, teams of Citizen Scientists combine their experience, knowledge and enthusiasm to survey the nature center's ecology. Master Naturalists, college students, teenagers, young kids, and other nature enthusiasts participate in this event, bringing their own interests to the mix to create a colorful and fun citizen science community. For some, the camaraderie and fun that is had during Wildlife Field Research brings them back year after year. The Wildlife Field Research surveys include Amphibian Watch, Ant Survey, Aquatic Survey, Butterfly Survey, Dragonfly Survey, Incidental Bird Count, Invasive Removal, Prairie Vegetation, Photo-Points, Prairie Vegetation Survey, Riparian Woody Plant Survey, Riparian Habitat Survey, Small Mammal Trapping, Water Snake and Reptile Search. For more information and to register, go to www.wildlifefieldresearch.org

continued on next page

Geology Short Course (A Four-Part Series)

Four Fridays, October 31 -- November 21

Are you curious about the geology of the Texas Hill Country and how it formed? Would you like to learn about groundwater recharge features and the geological formations that make up the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers? Then this comprehensive geology workshop is for you!

Geologists Dr. Kathy Ward and Ann Schneider will take you on a journey through time as they explore the physical processes that formed the limestone strata of the Texas Hill Country. This four part series includes classroom illustrations of the formation of the Texas Hill Country and hands on exploration of fossils and cores from drill sites, as well as field trips to geological features that provide a “walk through time” of limestone formations, groundwater recharge features, ancient rudist reefs, and other fascinating geological formations.

Limited to 20; Pre-registration required by October 24.

For further information and registration, contact Ben Eldredge at ben@cibolo.org or 830-249-4616.

Cost: CNC Members \$130/person; non-members \$150/person. (Memberships Available Online)

Course Details

PART I - Limestone Geology and Geologic History of Our Area -- Friday, Oct. 31; 9 a.m. - noon

Geologists Dr. Kathy Ward and Ann Schneider present the vital basics: why we have so much limestone in the Edwards Plateau and how our rocks control topography, soils, vegetation, aquifers and the very culture of our Texas Hill Country.

Location: Cibolo Nature Center auditorium

PART II - Hydro-geology of the Trinity Aquifer -- Friday, Nov. 7; 9 a.m. - noon

To sustain the quality and quantity of our water, we need to understand the special character of limestone aquifers. Building on the information in Part I, the workshop presenters will present the basic hydrogeology of the Texas Hill Country, the system that provides our ground water and interacts with surface water of Texas Hill Country springs and streams. This will be followed by a field trip to discuss the hydrogeological system within the local limestone at nearby Cibolo Preserve.

Location: Cibolo Nature Center auditorium

PART III - Field Trip to Canyon Lake Gorge -- Friday, Nov. 14; 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The great flood of July 2002 created Canyon Lake Gorge. With guidance from a canyon lake docent and the workshop presenters, this unique Glen Rose limestone outcrop provides insight into the mysterious character of our aquifer and reveals a fascinating history of the early Cretaceous seas.

Note: This tour may include strenuous hiking.

Location: Carpool from CNC to Canyon Lake Gorge promptly at 9 a.m.

PART IV - Field Trip to Albert & Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area -- Friday, Nov. 21, 9 a.m. - noon

The Albert & Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area is in the second year of a five year planning process and not yet open to the public. Featuring exposed limestone outcrops, it provides a glimpse of the Lower Edwards limestone strata that forms most of the Texas Hill Country. This tour may include strenuous hiking.

Location: Albert & Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area

7690 Hwy 46 West, Pipe Creek TX 78063 (830-249-4616)

Register Now

2014
HILL COUNTRY ALLIANCE
**LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT**

September 25th, 2014

Fredericksburg, TX

At the Admiral Nimitz Museum Ballroom

Begins with coffee and greetings at 8:30am
Program from 9:00am - 4:30pm
Ends after music and networking at 7:30pm

Join HCA leaders and volunteers as well as invited elected officials, GCD board members, landowners and conservationists for a day dedicated to vibrant towns, healthy landscapes, protected natural water systems and people making a difference in our Hill Country.

Plan on spending the night in Fredericksburg, especially if you serve on an HCA Team.

Team meetings will be held Friday morning, September 26th. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Fredericksburg Inn and Suites on Barron's Creek.

Book your room before August 25th to receive a special rate of \$99. Ask for the HCA Summit room block: 800-446-0202

\$59.00 Registration fee includes lunch, dinner reception and entertainment

Program Highlights

Texas State Representative Doug Miller – Gillispie, Kendall and Comal Counties

Andrew Murr – Republican Nominee for State Representative, House District 53, former County Judge, Kimble County

Chuck Marohn – “Strong Towns” President
Passionate about the future of America’s cities, towns and neighborhoods – understand the costs associated with our communities’ methods of growth and address those costs via productive changes in our pattern of development.

Steve Nelle – Veteran Edwards Plateau Land Management Specialist
“One of my greatest joys is to watch landowners become enthusiastically involved in conservation and land stewardship - private landowners are the key to a healthy Texas environment.”

Ken Kramer – Water Resource and Policy Expert
With 38 years of experience working on water and other environmental issues as an academic, an environmental group leader, and public policy specialist, Ken will share his insight about water planning progress and challenges facing the Hill Country.

Blair Fitzsimons – Conservationists to Conservationist
CEO of the Texas Agricultural Land Trust and leading expert on conservation finance in Texas

People with “can do” spirits fill our region.
A panel of very special Hill Country people will share stories about great success:
• Rescuing the Odeon Theatre in Mason – Chuck Patrick
• Creating a sustainable movement, Fredericksburg Shines - John Watson
• Teaching our next generation about creative Rainwater Harvesting – Brad Flink
• Rethinking and reviving Junction ISD landscaping – Emily Neiman
• Preserving historic Hill Country dance halls – Patrick Sparks

What an “Alliance” can accomplish
Past, present and future of HCA – Christy Muse

Music by Johnny Nicholas and Hell Bent, Featuring Cindy Cashdollar



Register Now



The View from Rusty Bend



Image by Lucy Griffith

*The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer,
the top of the live-long year,
like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in
its turning.*

*The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy
spring,
and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn,
but the first week of August is motionless, and hot.
It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and
glaring noons,
and sunsets smeared with too much color.*

— Natalie Babbitt, Tuck Everlasting

Hot. Hot. Hot. And all is very quiet here at Rusty Bend. Quiet enough to hear the thwack as an inattentive Mourning Dove collides mid-air with its mate. Or to hear the whoosh-whoosh of the wings of the Turkey Vulture. Or the ping of a Mexican free-tailed bat nabbing a bug.

The treasures of the Dog Days are subtle. Out in the pasture it is so very dry, but not bare, as the grasses still hang heavy with seeds. The palette is muted, with late summer fruits providing spots of color. The Mustang grape clusters and the reddish Hackberry fruit, ready to power any migrating birds southward. In the August landscape, day-glo purple Prickly Pear fruits look downright gaudy.

Nature seems to enter another kind of dormancy when it is this hot and dry. As if she is taking a nap, and will only rise with the promise of rain. Everything seems to slow down. The Great Blue Heron glides by silently to fish the pools left as the river recedes. A Walking Stick takes all day to climb our window, his sticky feet the envy of all rock climbers.

August is also the time for teaching the young'uns. The Canyon Wrens practice their tiny arias each day. One has taken command of our front porch, and sings the song with ascending instead of descending notes. It sounds like she is trying to start a lawn mower. We call her "Contraria." She makes us laugh.

Young Lesser Goldfinches have been weaned off bugs from Mom and Dad and hang on the thistle seed feeder all day, like kids at the mall. A bright yellow column of canaries. Their collective name, a charm of goldfinches. Apt.

One morning two turkey hens come by with their youngsters. One hen we call the Ash Queen for her penchant for dust baths in the ash pile. Sure enough, she does a demo and soon ten little turkeys are twisting and fluffing away in the ash pile. Hilarious. Then they all shake and ten little powder bombs go off. Who says nothing happens in August?

Our end of day ritual now includes sitting on the porch once the sun goes down. We search the sky for some promise of rain. Sometimes a little cool air lifts up off the river. But we wait for something else. And wait. There they are. One, two, three. And a trickle of bats dance their way south. Wheeling black confetti against the fading light. Good night, summer, good night.

Lucy Griffith, PhD co-manages the Rusty Bend Ranch with her husband, Andy Robinson. When she is not on her tractor, she practices Clinical Psychology. When the tractor is broken, Andy is fixing it. Both Lucy and Andy are certified Master Naturalists from the Class of 2013. Comments welcome at oodie1950@gmail.com.

Advanced Training

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20 9AM-3PM FREDERICKSBURG

AT 14-130 FREDERICKSBURG SHINES SECOND ANNUAL HOME TOUR

Fredericksburg SHINES will host this tour of nine eco-homes to spotlight sustainable practices including solar applications for electricity generation, water heating, and solar tubes as interior light sources, as well as examples of xeriscaping, rainwater collection systems, and compressed earth block, rammed earth, straw bale, and “cool roof” type construction. Zero waste applications, an electric vehicle charging station, and a Chevy Volt (or two) and Tesla will be on display. Tickets, \$25, include a map and description of what is available for viewing at each home. They will be available in Fredericksburg at Judy’s Liquor, Memorial Presbyterian Church, and Peach Basket. Tickets also may be purchased online at <http://www.fbgshines.org/sustainability-home-tour/> .

MONDAY, SEPT. 22 7PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE

AT 14-139 BIOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF KARST AND CAVE CRITTERS

Ben Hutchins, invertebrate biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will speak on historical as well as current ecological research aimed at understanding the complex food web and the intimate relationship between biodiversity and hydrology.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1 1:30PM TEXAS LIONS CAMP, KERRVILLE

AT 14-144 FORB IDENTIFICATION

John Huecksteadt will present the Forb ID class after the New Class meeting. Even if you have taken the course before, you can still earn Advanced Training hours by repeating the class.

FRIDAY, OCT. 3 1-5PM KERR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, HUNT

AT 14-122 ECOSYSTEMS APPROACH TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

This is the third and final seminar discussing white-tailed deer management, grazing management, prescribed burning, brush control, and endangered species. The focus is on finding a cure rather than treating a symptom. The seminar will also include over 30 years of nutrition and genetics research conducted in the Donnie E. Harmel White-tailed Deer Research Facility. Outdoor tour of sites at the Management Areas will follow demonstrating topics covered indoors. Free. For more information and registration, contact Ryan Reitz, 830-238-4483 .

FRIDAY, OCT. 10 8:30AM-3:30PM MASON MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

AT 14-123 ECOSYSTEMS APPROACH TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

This is the third and final seminar discussing white-tailed deer management, grazing management, prescribed burning, brush control, and endangered species. The focus is on finding a cure rather than treating a symptom. The seminar will also include over 30 years of nutrition and genetics research conducted in the Donnie E. Harmel White-tailed Deer Research Facility. Outdoor tour of sites at the Management Area will follow demonstrating topics covered indoors. Free. For more information and to register, call the office: 325-347-5037 .

SATURDAY, OCT. 11 9AM-4PM BLANCO HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURAL BUILDING

AT 14-146 GARDENSCAPE FUNDAMENTALS

Seminars , children’s activities, food, and fun. 10:00, Backyard Birding in the Hill Country; native plantings, the best feeders, and seeds to attract them; Master Gardener Susan Evans. 11:00, Fall Planting and Care of Trees; Jessica Robertson from Backbone Nursery. 1:00, Night Sky Friendly; learn about night sky-friendly outdoor lighting, its importance and how to implement it economically; Wayne Gosnell from Hill Country Alliance. 2:00, Butterflies of Central Texas; learn about the life cycle of butterflies and their relationship to host plants; Dan Holland. For more information, contact 830-868-7167 or go to www.txmg.org/blanco .



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months at 7:00 PM in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

Join us at 6:30 for our social half-hour.

Everyone is welcome.

Texas Master Naturalist 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.

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The Texas Star is a monthly publication of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. News, essays, comments, and ideas are welcome.

Please email them to:

Lenore Langsdorf, Editor
LenoreLangsdorf@gmail.com

The Hill Country Chapter does not recommend or endorse organizations or commercial sources mentioned in our newsletter. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and editor.



Questions about our chapter?
Email Becky Etzler,
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hillcountrymasternaturalist@gmail.com

