

# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the  
Texas Master Naturalist  
Hill Country Chapter



JANUARY 2014  
VOLUME 12  
NUMBER 1

David Hewitt photo

T E X A S

Master  
Naturalist™



## JANUARY 27 MEETING: THE BLACK BEARS OF TEXAS

Dr. Diana Doan-Crider of the Texas A&M University Department of Ecosystem Sciences and Management will be our speaker. She will focus on the understanding that is necessary for the public to coexist with bears safely. Also, she will discuss black bear biology and ecology, field signs, population trends, and mechanisms for how bears use their landscapes.

Everyone is welcome to join us Monday, January 27 at 7 p.m. in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's lecture hall, 125 Lehman Drive in Kerrville. Arrive at 6:30 to chat with members and guests.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . . Vern Crawford

The past year has zoomed by with such amazing speed. It is hard to believe that it actually contained 364 days, as they seemed to go by so quickly. What is even more amazing is the contributions and accomplishments achieved by this chapter during these past twelve months.

January is report time for Master Naturalist chapters. With huge thanks for the help of Sandy Leyendecker, our supremely competent Database Manager, we tabulate all chapter activities of the past year and report the results to Michelle Haggerty, the Texas Master Naturalist Program Director.

Michelle reminds us of how crucial all of this information is to our "federal, state and local program sponsors, partners and potential donors." This also reminds us of why it is so important to send in our Activity Reports.

We have been busy. Let me share just a few highlights from 2013.

Our chapter trained 35 new Master Naturalist volunteers, for a cumulative total of 380 trained volunteers since our chapter's inception in 2002.

There were 250 Advanced Training opportunities within our chapter, providing 2,911 hours of educational enhancement to our Master Naturalists last year.

Our chapter conducted 306 outreach and educational events that directly affected 25,973 youth, adults and landowners. Indirectly these and other outreach and educational events reached over 500,000 throughout the year.

New chapter projects for the year impacted 5,735 acres, including over 1,581 acres visited by our Land Management Assistance Program.

Impressively, our total approved volunteer service hours increased by almost 50% over the previous year to 31,740, for a grand total of 183,790 volunteer hours to date. That translates to our chapter having provided services to our community valued at well over \$3,680,000!

Thanks to each of you for what you have contributed toward this outstanding year. Your commitment to service makes this chapter so amazing. 2014, here we come!

Vern



Initial Certification

Mary Muse Barbara Oates Kay Russ Mellissa Seymour  
Melanie Swan Terry Swan Joe von Rosenberg

Special Recertification

Barb Herbst Cay Russ

2013 Recertification

Leanne Beauxbeannes Phillip Brush Jim Gardner Sharon Hixon Barbara Lowenthal  
Pat McCormick Roger McRoberts Katherine Peake Ernest Smith Paula Smith Evelyn Vittone

Milestones

Shirley Nedry - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours  
Carolyn Bean, Ruth McArthur, Kathy Ward - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours  
Tom Riordan - Gold Dragonfly, 1000 hours



Kathy Ward, Vice President; Sarah Hilburn, Secretary; Diane McMahon, Treasurer; and Vern Crawford, President were elected at the November meeting to the 2014 Hill Contry Master Naturalist Chapter Board.



Shirley Nedry, Dale Bransford, and Morgan Williams are the first members of the Class of 2013 to complete certification requirements.



*Congratulations to members who received awards at the November meeting.*

From left to right: Bob McKinley, Steve Clyburn, Shirley Nedry, Dale Bransford, Morgan Williams, Jackie Huecksteadt, Lenore Langsdorf, and Vern Crawford

## Bird Hybridization

While conducting the West Kerr Christmas Bird Count this past Saturday, my team saw a yellow bellied/breasted woodpecker-type bird sitting high in a small deciduous tree. A closer look through binoculars showed a large white wing patch typical of a sapsucker. My first impression of the bird's identification was that of a common winter resident, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. We had a Red-naped Sapsucker in the same tree on last year's count, so I took a look at the bird's head and saw red coloration on its nape – indicative of a Red-naped Sapsucker, a rarer sapsucker species in the Hill Country. My next move was to get as many photos as I could of the bird for species documentation of this fairly rare bird for our area.

After I took ten or more photos, the bird became impatient and flew away. I quickly looked at the photos and confirmed the red color on the bird's nape and figured I had enough photos to prove its identity. Pulling the photos up on my laptop computer after getting home, I discovered much more red coloration on the bird's head than found on a normal Red-naped Sapsucker. I went through all of my bird books but was still confused by the unusual red coloration in the wrong places. It had some features of both Red-naped and Yellow-bellied sapsuckers but the red colors seemed to be smeared on the bird's head rather than in well-defined areas. I thought it might be an immature of one the two birds' sexes – male or female.



Using the world of internet communication, I decided to go for help among my birder friends. I sent a friend a number of my best photos showing the bird's anatomy and plumage from different angles. The answer came back – Red-naped Sapsucker, but my friend decided to send it to his friend for confirmation. That reply came back from a birder in the Lower Rio Grande Valley that it was a hybrid cross between a Red-breasted Sapsucker and a Red-naped Sapsucker, two west coast birds. Armed with this information, I went to the internet to see posted photos of the hybrids produced by these two sapsucker species. Some of these photos matched my photographs, and the mystery was solved.

I continued to look into this interesting combination of sapsuckers. I have never seen a Red-breasted Sapsucker, whose range extends from California northward into Alaska, but is fairly narrow in its east-west component. The Red-naped Sapsucker's range is also western, but its width reaches from Colorado to California. The point of overlap is mostly in southern California and eastward to the desert regions of southwest Arizona. Further investigation of my books indicted that hybridization is fairly common in the birds' range overlap regions. Only a few documented sightings of the Red-breasted Sapsucker have occurred in Texas.

Going back to my photos I could see that the smeared red color on the bird's head came from his Red-breasted Sapsucker parent. The Red-naped Sapsucker parent must have had more dominant genes as the bird in question had head plumage patterns consistent with the Red-naped parent. Since Red-breasted Sapsuckers are very rare in Texas, it is logical to dismiss this bird from any consideration regarding identification. In the bird world it is best to never say never. Since birds can fly, they can end up in unusual locations. The next time such confusion exists, I will be more likely to let my mind wander in broader circles when trying to identify a rare bird.

In my long history of watching birds, I am convinced that nature's designer of different species somehow enjoys confusing us birders with unusual exceptions to almost every rule regarding identification parameters. Bird plumage patterns might cover 95 percent of all family members, but the other five percent will be different in subtle forms. It is that five percent that keeps us birders honest and makes our avocation so enjoyable. I would like to add the Red-breasted Sapsucker to my life list, but in bird sighting records, "half-birds" cannot be counted.

reprinted from the [Kerrville Daily Times](#), Jan. 3, 2014

from Betty Clyburn

### Talking Turkey at the Kroc Center

Exactly one week before Thanksgiving a team of Master Naturalists met at the Kroc Center to teach the boys and girls about turkeys. Julie Clay started the program with a question and answer session about the names of turkeys: hen, Tom, poult. Did you know that a young Tom is called a Jake? The students did know that one either. Julie brought a saucer to show how shallow the nest is that the hen makes for 10-12 eggs. There was lots of guessing about where she makes that nest but finally it was determined that she makes it on the ground in tall grass, not in a tree. The students were asked if a turkey could fly, and if so, how fast? They could not believe the answer of 60 miles per hour. Martha Miesch took over and talked about the turkey's diet of insects as a poult and later, seeds. Martha had some examples of native grasses to pass around to the children which included Sideoats Gramma, the Texas state grass. The lecture concluded with students looking at examples of turkey feathers, some soft and fluffy from the body and some fan tail feathers from a compliant gobbler.



Now that we know about turkeys, let's see if we can lure some into view as our forefathers did for the First Thanksgiving. No butterballs for our fearless forefathers. Betty Clyburn demonstrated some old wooden calls for gobblers and then she encouraged the students to make their own hen calls with leather string and straws. With the help of Mary Frances Watson, Rheda Boardman, Sarah Hilburn, and Diane McMahan, the boys and girls spent the rest of the hour making and decorating their calls with beads and feathers.



The big lesson was in learning to make the sound which required "kissing" the straw, not blowing on it, and cupping your hand at the end of the straw. They loved making their calls; you can see them proudly displaying them. The Master Naturalists also made calls to take home to call their own turkey hens for Thanksgiving.



Rheda Boardman photos

## Keeper of the Dome: Cochran Takes Reins at Iconic Landmark

By Ken Esten Cooke



**NOW LEADING** one of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's top five most-visited parks, Doug Cochran sees challenges and opportunities in managing Enchanted Rock State Natural Area's 1,600-plus acres, which includes the iconic, 640-acre granite dome outcropping. —

photo: Standard-Radio Post/Ken-Esten Cooke

Rainy weekdays at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area allow the staff to catch their breath and catch up on the myriad maintenance and day-to-day duties. New park superintendent Doug Cochran still had a full “to-do” list during Monday’s showers, but took time out to talk about his first four months on the job.

Cochran came to the job after 15 years as the City of Victoria’s parks director. He also had done municipal parks department work in College Station, the home of his alma mater, Texas A&M University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in parks and recreation studies.

“I still can’t believe I’m here,” he said. “I worked 15 years in Victoria, but I wasn’t ready to retire and this job came open. The people in Fredericksburg are so genuine and welcoming.”

Cochran, who lives just 45 seconds from the park’s entrance, said he is looking at all aspects of the park, to improve the visitor experience for one of the state’s top five destinations in the entire Texas Parks and Wildlife Department System.

“We’ve got a wonderful staff,” he said of his staff of 10, adding that they are currently understaffed by about one third. “They love what they do and working with people.”

To help the staff work more efficiently, Cochran said they are looking at short-term improvements to trails, signage and water projects. Long-term, Cochran wants to improve the park’s visibility in both gateway cities, Fredericksburg and Llano.

“We want to be good partners. Fredericksburg and Llano are so important to us,” he said. “It’s important that we get to civic groups or local schools and make presentations for science or history teachers. When students can hear from a park ranger, it can help them better learn about geology or our ecosystems.”

### Challenges

Cochran said he prefers to look at all the SNA’s “problems” as challenges. Being a top five destination park means finding a balance between supporting all those visitors while protecting the natural and cultural resources. Enchanted Rock, he said, has unique features not found at other parks, such as the vernal pools that top the massive granite dome.

“We’ve got an important heritage here, too,” he added, “dating back to prehistoric times and with the Native Americans that inhabited this area.”

Not the least of his challenges is the safety of the hundreds of thousands of visitors. Yet, on busy weekends, the most difficult “challenge” can be simply getting into the park. “I’ve visited with the Texas Department of Transportation about the RM 965 situation near the entrance,” he said, of the two-lane road which often backs up with cars waiting sometimes hours to turn into the park’s entrance. “TxDOT has its own budget issues, so our staff tries to find creative ways to park inside the park temporarily, just to get them off the road. It scares us to think about cars coming over a rise at 55 miles per hour, then seeing cars stopped on the highway.”

In his first four months, the staff has presented a plan to TPWD management that cut the park’s water usage by 54 percent. “That’s huge for us. When we only have a 44,000-gallon water tank and there are 3,000 to 4,000 people here on peak weekends; it’s a challenge to manage that precious resource,” he said.

Another issue he is looking at is closing “social trails” made by visitors who may not realize what damage they are doing by going off the trails. “It takes time and volunteers,” he said.

*continued on next page*

Developing a comprehensive volunteer program is also a high priority. "We need volunteers," he said. "Some may not wish to lead tours, but they could help in the office. Others could lead interpretive tours or serve as docents on Saturdays and Sundays. Helping us clean up or park cars lets our full-time staff focus on other duties."

Other long-term projects include a remodel of the park headquarters, and expanding its store. The park currently sells about \$90,000 in merchandise annually, which helps TPWD, but Cochran said he could imagine doubling or tripling that if the headquarters building was larger.

Lastly, Cochran and the staff are planning upcoming events, such as a "Rock Stars" astronomy program on Nov. 22-23 with a planetary geologist. The park also will host Christmas activities on Dec. 14 with a hayride, hot chocolate and cookies for visitors.

**DOUG COCHRAN**

- Bachelor's degree in parks and recreation from Texas A&M University, 1982;
- Municipal parks work with College Station and served 15 years as Director of Parks and Recreation in Victoria.
- He and wife Theresa have two children; a son, also an A&M graduate, working as a project manager, and a daughter, who is a student at the University of Texas.

**Friends of Enchanted Rock**

The "Friends of Enchanted Rock" group helps raise funds for trail improvements, interpretive displays and more. The group's president, Melissa Mial, said the group has enjoyed working with Cochran since his arrival in July. "Doug has an appreciation for Enchanted Rock State Natural Area's unique beauty that is already evident in his management approach," Mial said. "Under his management, the park has already begun offering programs to enhance visitor enjoyment, such as regularly scheduled night sky viewings." Mial said that Cochran understands, and has embraced, the park's environmental sensitivity. "Perhaps most importantly, Doug has a keen understanding of the challenges he faces to protect Enchanted Rock's unique natural resources while still offering over 250,000 visitors a year the chance to experience it," she said. "It's a tough job and we are thrilled to have someone with Doug's energy and skill on board to tackle it."

reprinted with permikssion from the Fredericksburg Standard - Radio Post

**Join KCPP for our Annual Make Ready for Bluebirds!**

**Kreuzberg Canyon Natural Area**  
 Wednesday • January 22  
 9:00a  
 Help us prep our 18 nest boxes and three observation blinds

**Joshua Springs Park and Preserve and James Kiehl River Bend Park**  
 Friday • January 24 • 9:00a  
 Help us prep our 22 nest boxes, then lunch in Comfort

We love volunteers. Help one day or both!  
 kristie@kendallcountyparks.org

**KENDALL COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR PARKS**

from Mike Mullins  
Cradle of Texas Chapter

At the State conference Peggy Romfh (Cradle of Texas) attended Minnette Marr's (Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center) presentation on the Green Ash Seed Collection project. She has requested help from all Master Naturalist Chapters to harvest seeds of the Green Ash Tree which could come under attack from the Emerald Ash Borer in the near future. Working together, Peggy and Minnette have written a procedure ([http://www.nsl.fs.fed.us/GeneticConservation\\_Ash.htm](http://www.nsl.fs.fed.us/GeneticConservation_Ash.htm)) that walks a collector through the process. The Cradle of Texas Chapter is currently using this procedure to collect seeds in the Brazoria County Area. References, forms and additional information are contained within the procedure.

For additional questions Minnette Marr can be reached at [mmarr@wildflower.org](mailto:mmarr@wildflower.org).

Norma Bruns held the winning raffle ticket at the Hill Country Chapter holiday party last month, and carried home an Aldo Leopold-style bench. Here's a photo she sent of the Bruns family enjoying the bench.



### Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

- 11/8/13 "Nature's Response to Rains and a Change of Seasons"
- 11/15/13 "Some Less-Common Hill Country Trees and Shrubs: Part I"
- 11/22/13 "Deer Hunting in the Hill Country"
- 11/29/13 "Holiday Gifts to Help Spread the Love of Nature"
- 12/6/13 "Some Less-Common Hill Country Trees and Shrubs: Part II"
- 12/13/13 "It is Not Winter Yet"
- 12/20/13 "Water: Conserve it, Capture it, Keep it Clean"
- 12/27/13 "The Organization of All Life on Earth"

These and all other previous Kerrville Daily Times columns can be found at  
[www.hillcountrynaturalist.org/columns.htm](http://www.hillcountrynaturalist.org/columns.htm).

## VOLUNTEER FOR CNC OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Volunteers are needed for the outdoor classroom program at Cibolo Nature Center. The program is for public & private schools and home school groups.

The curriculum for grades K-8 emphasizes conservation of natural resources and addresses science process and concepts. For each group of 16 students there are four trail guides, who lead four different activities that teach the selected curriculum topic.

Helpers and teachers are needed. You would learn initially by shadowing with the possibility to advance to teaching. Shadowing is following a qualified guide to see the program in action. CNC provides all training, supplies, and curriculum. Classes are Monday to Friday Feb. 3 to May 22.

For further information on becoming a volunteer, contact Stephanie Colvard, 830-246-4616 or 615-653-5216 or email [stephanie@cibolo.org](mailto:stephanie@cibolo.org). This is volunteer project KL-02-B; Rheda Boardman is the coordinator.

## Project Spotlights

Project coordinators tell their stories each quarter on our website.  
Just click the Spotlight.

This quarter we feature:

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation

Opal B. Robert's Landscape of Hopes and Dreams

Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas

## Native Plant Society of Texas-Kerrville Chapter

### "Who's Afraid of Big, Bad Botanical Plant Names?"

On Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hear a presentation by horticultural consultant Mary Irish on how botanical plants get their names.

Mary is a garden writer, lecturer, and educator who was born and raised in Austin, Texas. After her books *Gardening in the Desert* and *Agaves, Yuccas and Related Plants, a Gardeners Guide* were published she wrote seven additional books on gardening and plants appropriate for Southwest gardens. She worked as a horticulture consultant for municipal gardens in California and Arizona. For eleven years she was the Director of Public Horticulture at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. Currently she manages the plant sales program at the San Antonio Botanical Garden.

The event will take place at 3:00 p.m. in the Riverside Nature Center visitor center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville. Visitors are welcome. More information is available on the Kerrville NPSOT web site, [npsot.org/Kerrville](http://npsot.org/Kerrville). For more information contact Melinda Wasson, 830-895-2521.

# SAVE THE DATE

April 25-26-27, 2014

## 4th Annual WINGS OVER THE HILLS FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS ★ NATURE FESTIVAL ★

A CELEBRATION OF NATURAL FLIGHT

Bring the whole family for educational and entertainment activities focusing on the unique wildlife features of the Texas Hill Country.

Golden-cheeked Warbler



Photos by G. Lasley

Black-capped Vireo



**LECTURES • DEMONSTRATIONS**  
**NATIVE BAT TOUR • DRAGONFLY CHASE**  
**TRADESHOW • HUMMINGBIRD BANDING**  
**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • WILDFLOWERS**

**wingstx.org**

Calendars are filling up fast so don't miss out on this fun nature filled weekend April 25-27 2014!

Wings Over The Hills is a family oriented Nature Festival. Sponsored by the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center celebrating our fantastic Hill Country flora and fauna. Nature talks with a wide range of speakers and topics, field trips-including Hummingbird banding, children's activities, and Last Chance Forever are just a few of the happenings that weekend.

This is your chance to participate by volunteering at this TMN project and earn volunteer or AT hours while having fun. There is a job for everyone including registration, speaker venues, ticket sales, publicity and many more!

Contact Jane Crone at [janechrone@austin.rr.com](mailto:janechrone@austin.rr.com) or Gracie Waggener [gwaggener@flow-apps.com](mailto:gwaggener@flow-apps.com) to get on the list.

### Riverside Nature Center JANUARY EVENTS

17,000 Years of Hill Country Life: Through February 2014

9 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St. By popular demand, the exhibit is extended through February. Developed by Hill Country Archeological Assn. and sponsored by Kerrville Elks Lodge #2081, the exhibit celebrates the first Hill Country peoples, and how they used available natural resources and primitive technology to build earthen ovens and to make tools and weapons. FREE but donations are appreciated.

RNC Tour, the Beauty of Britain: Monday, Jan. 20

2:30 p.m. Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St. Organizational meeting for anyone with an interest in joining RNC nature lovers on a tour of England and Scotland, Sept. 25-Oct. 3, 2014. Refreshments served. Call 257-4837, or visit [www.riversidenaturecenter.org](http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org) for general information.

Herbs at Twilight, Herbal Aphrodisiacs: Thursday, Jan. 23

6-7:30 p.m. Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St. Just in time for Valentine's! Bring loving into your life with awakening and circulation-enhancing herbs. Led by certified herbalists Amy Coward, R.N., and Sally Garrett, M.S. \$25/\$20 RNC members. Call 257-4837, or visit [www.riversidenaturecenter.org](http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org) for general information.

Town Creek Cleanup Team: Saturday, Jan. 25

8:30 a.m. Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St.; meet in parking lot. Work with Upper Guadalupe River Authority to detail Town Creek. Necessary to join at least a week in advance. RSVP to 257-4837. Visit [www.riversidenaturecenter.org](http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org) for general information.

# **Free Native Plant Books for Tablets and Smartphones**

**Sandra and Scott Magee**

**Designed with interactive features for iPad  
Available in PDF files for use on other devices**



This book is a supplemental reference for selected plants that are common throughout the Hill Country in a variety of habitats. For purposes of this book, a forb is a non-woody, herbaceous plant that is not a grass or a sedge.



This book is a supplemental reference for selected Texas Hill Country native plants that are not as well known as the more familiar wildflowers. These plants are not rare or endangered but are found in various habitats throughout the Hill Country.



This book is a beginning guide to grasses common throughout the Texas Hill Country. It supplements, but does not replace, many excellent books providing a comprehensive reference for the grasses. This book covers both native and non-native species.



This book aids the identification of woody plants growing throughout the Texas Hill Country and supplements existing field guides and references. Included are trees, shrubs, vines, and yucca-like plants, covering both native and non-native species.

- **iPad Users:**

- Available on iBooks®
- Requires iBooks App (V3 or later) - free from the App Store

- **PDF Users:**

- Requires PDF reader on tablet or smartphone
- Get download information/links at web site: <http://csmapps.webs.com/>

from Lucy Griffith

## The View from Rusty Bend



image by Lucy Griffith

*Nature's first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf's a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf,  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day  
Nothing gold can stay.*

*Robert Frost*

By early December, the colors were shifting here at Rusty Bend. We will miss the startling hues of such a fine fall. Though as the leaves “subside,” now winter’s palette paints the scene. Like an old lithograph, sepia and sienna begin to shade the edges of the landscape.

Wintertime hosts its own reveal. Without the leaves, at first glance all appears bleak and stark. But now the eye and ear are unimpeded. The Great Blue Heron can be seen from above as she glides along the river, much more blue than gray. Minus their foliage, the pecan trees give up what they’ve been hiding: huge nests of leaves that look like someone hurled wet, black t-shirts into the branches.

As the turkeys go to roost in the cypress trees, each wing beat is loud enough to make you duck. Hidden birds materialize as we hear the “kuk-kuk-kuk” of the Green Heron on the river or the soft trill of the Western Screech- Owl, a cradlesong of dusk.

Our morning show is now “Spot the Raptor”. We watch a Red-tailed hawk on a cottonwood branch, a speckled “V” on its scapulars. Successful deer hunters bring in scores of Black Vultures, Common Ravens and Crested Caracaras; brunch at the gutpiles. The Caracaras are such gawky fliers; they look like they are about to crash as they jerk through the wind. The Northern Harrier glides in wide circles above the golden grasses, his white rump tracing the arc of his hunt. The Guadalupe exposes herself this time of year as well. Massive carp and catfish rest gently in long grooves of limestone deep beneath clear cold water. The Bald Cypress needles carpet the banks with their rusty reds, and quiet eddies are orange rimmed.

The usual suspects are at the feeder--Cardinals, Chickadees, Finches, and Titmice--but in the woods the Northern Flicker sounds his harsh “Kleer!” In the bushes, the showy Spotted Towhees have arrived. Their wild foraging divulges why a group of towhees is called a “tangle”. They scavenge for seeds with a little hokey pokey dance, jump forward, scratch, jump back and grab ‘em.

In this winter season, what was hidden is now exposed. Spare, yet full. Look, listen; let your heart take it in.

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. Lucy and Andy completed the 2013 Hill Country Master Naturalist Class.

## Advanced Training

### **SATURDAY, JAN. 25 7-8:30PM GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK (GRSP)**

AT 14-012 PROWLING FOR OWLS

Join us at the park amphitheater to learn about owls and their amazing adaptations, followed by a walk around the park to call and listen for them. Cost: \$7. for a daily pass or free with a Park Pass; children ages 12 and under are free.

### **MONDAY, JAN. 27 7-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY (UGRA)**

AT 14-009 THE BLACK BEARS OF TEXAS

Dr. Diana Doan-Crider, faculty member, Department of Ecosystem System Sciences and Management, Texas A&M University, will speak at our monthly meeting on what appears to be a rapid recovery of bears in Texas and how we can coexist safely with them. Free; for further information contact Kathy Ward, [kathyollu@aol.com](mailto:kathyollu@aol.com).

### **THURSDAY, JAN. 30 8:30AM-2PM GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK**

AT 14-013 SPARROW ID WORKSHOP

The Friends of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek invite you to join GRSP's Craig Hensley for a workshop on identifying our native grassland sparrows. We'll begin with a presentation and then be in the field for the rest of the day. Bring your field guide and binoculars. (We do have several pairs to loan.) This workshop is limited to the first 12 people who register; email [craig.hensley@tpwd.gov](mailto:craig.hensley@tpwd.gov) or call 830--438-7653. A \$5. donation to the Friends Group is requested.

### **SATURDAY, FEB. 1 10:30AM-2:30PM GAULT ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, FLORENCE**

AT 14-007 GAULT SITE ARCHEOLOGICAL TOUR

Dr. Clark Wernecke will guide us through the site. Feb. 22 will be our rain date. Bring a sack lunch. The normal cost of tours is \$10., and Dr. Wernecke has not asked for a fee. Please consider a \$10. donation to the site. Contact Liz Ross, 512-413-9536 for more information.

### **TUESDAY, FEB. 4 10AM-12PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER (CNC)**

AT 14-014 BIRD BOX MONITOR TRAINING

CNC coordinates citizen science volunteers in our four habitats and at Boerne Lake. Learn how to identify common birds that use the nest boxes, how to count and document egg and hatchling numbers, and how to predict hatch and fledge dates. Dick Park is the presenter. Suggested donation: \$10. Register at [www.cibolo.org](http://www.cibolo.org).

### **TUESDAY, FEB. 11 3PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER (RNC)**

AT 14-020 WHO'S AFRAID OF BIG, BAD BOTANICAL PLANT NAMES?

Mary Irish, horticultural consultant, author, educator, and Plant Sales Manager at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, will speak at the Native Plant Society of Texas-Kerrville Chapter meeting. Visitors are welcome. Contact Melinda Wasson, 830-895-2521, for further information.

The newsletter's publication schedule does not allow listing all AT events in each issue. Check the chapter calendar on our website for additional AT.



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

***Board of Directors 2014***

- Vern Crawford -- President
- Kathy Ward -- Vice President
- Sarah Hilburn -- Secretary
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- Liz Ross -- 2014 Class Director
- Lisa Flanagan -- 2013 Class Representative
- Priscilla Stanley -- Immediate Past President



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](mailto: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,  
Membership Director  
[hillcountrymasternaturalist@gmail.com](mailto:hillcountrymasternaturalist@gmail.com)

