



Possumhaw Holly photo:  
Joseph A. Marcus

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## Message From Coco Brennan

As I step into some very big shoes, I'd like to take the opportunity to say "thank you" to David Reel for his outstanding leadership as President of the Lindheimer Master Naturalists this past year. His calm demeanor and common sense have been invaluable to the rest of us on the Board and I think I can speak for us all when I say we are very grateful for his service. Not that David will be completely off of the hook, he will serve as Past President on the Board, and I (for one) will be a lot more comfortable knowing he is there.

While winter is here with cold winds and no rain at all, spring is just around the corner. I'm sure you all will be looking forward to the many activities in which the LMN'ers take part at that time of the year: Earth Day, Heritage Festival, etc. Please volunteer for these public activities when they come up as this is our best chance to put the Master Naturalists' face in the public and let them know who we are and what we do.

As a friendly reminder, please turn in your volunteer hours to Charlie Thomas, our new record keeper (*refer to his e-mail address on p. 14*). The hours we serve are used by both Texas Parks and Wildlife and the AgriLife Extension Service, who are the Master Naturalists' sponsors, for their records, so it is very important to keep track of your hours and turn them in. If you have any questions please feel free to ask Charlie or me and we will be happy to assist you. As you know, your hours are also used to certify or recertify you as a Master Naturalist every year and you will receive the recertification pin, which for 2011 is the Texas Horned Lizard, very cool.

I encourage all of you to attend our Chapter Meetings, if you can, this year. I have lined up some very interesting speakers for the first half who will discuss native bees, fish, bats, birds and Citizen Science. If you have an idea for an interesting speaker, please feel free to send me the information, I'll be glad for the help! Don't forget, you will receive an hour's credit toward your Advanced Training for attending Chapter meetings with qualified speakers. And besides that incentive, there are some wonderful snacks every month thanks to our talented volunteers.

Thank you so much for electing me president of this wonderful organization, I am very honored and I will try to live up to your expectations and to maintain the high quality of leadership we have seen in the past. I wish you all a Happy New Year and safe one as well.

*Coco*—2011 President

## Parting Thoughts from David

I want to offer my sincere thanks to the volunteers and members of the Lindheimer Master Naturalist Chapter for supporting me in my role as chapter president in 2010. I have had the honor to get to know many of you much better and witness the passion you have for helping children and adults in our community learn more about Texas' natural resources. You inspire a new appreciation of our environment and set the stage for our children and grandchildren to enjoy the natural Texas for years to come.

The projects you have worked on this year: Mesquite Creek, Gorge Preservation Society, Comal and Guadalupe rivers water quality testing, Landa Park tree planting, Earth Day, Folkfest, Friesenhahn Cave, trail maintenance in local parks, RavenStar, Tye Preston library, Honey Creek, Heritage Museum, Bill Brown Elementary, Fischer Farm, Cibolo Nature Center, Warbler Woods, Project Wild .... just to name a few, have been truly impressive and valuable to our community.

You have donated your time, labor and resources. Your reward has been self satisfaction and some really neat 'lapel' pins. I look forward to working with you and our new members on special projects in the future. With Gratitude and Appreciation, *David Reel*—2010 President



Congratulations to  
Our Dedicated  
Volunteers!

For the second year in a row TMN-LC members have been honored with the Community Spirit Award from the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce. Last year Susan Bogle was honored, and this year Sheila & Allen Bartram have received this recognition!

## *Lindheimer Members Share their Personal Memories of A Much Loved and Treasured Friend and Mentor*

**Coco Brennan**—I would like to take a moment to reflect on a remarkable person; Dr. Bill Ward, who passed away on January 8, 2011. Susan Bogle asked him once when he reminded her to call him “Bill,” why he let me get away with still calling him “Dr. Ward?” He shrugged his shoulders, looked at me and said, “Well, she’s...” and didn’t finish the sentence. I think he knew that no matter how long we would know each other and how closely we would work, I would always use the honorific. He was the most modest and self-effacing man I have known.

Susan and I used to call ourselves his “groupies.” We loved to be the docents for his tours and attend the classes he gave to the Gorge Preservation Society; even though he’d say to us “you’ve heard this before many times!” We’d always say, “But we learn something new every time!” Which was true, but what was also true,

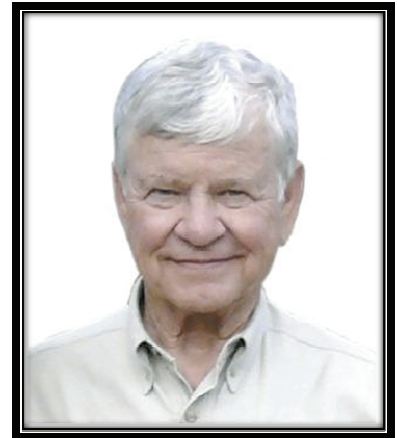


**His enthusiasm for Canyon Lake Gorge never flagged and he loved showing it to people.**

was we loved just being in his company in the Gorge. His enthusiasm for that beautiful place never flagged and he loved showing it to new people. He was fondly known as the Limestone Cowboy, but did you know he was one of the most respected limestone geologists around, and even in retirement was sought out by those in “the oil bidness” for his expertise. He was recently working as a consultant with Southwest Texas Research Institute. “A real job,” he told me. He’d been planning on writing about book about Texas Hill Country geology, as well. And yet, he had plenty of time to teach the geology class to the proto-Master Naturalists and to be a speaker at the Texas Master Naturalist State Meeting, at which he also led a tour of the Gorge and fretted to me that he could lead more than one when he found I had organized two other geologists for the remaining tours.

I was lucky enough to be involved at Cibolo Nature Center on several projects with him. He was into every-

thing...native plants, birds, water conservation...well, you name it. Cibolo has benefited from his quiet conviction and encyclopedic knowledge for years. In fact, Carolyn Chipman Evans and Jan Wrede joke about Jan’s habit of telling Carolyn, “You need to listen to Bill about this,” or “Bill says we need to do this.” That would guarantee the idea would receive priority. He was passionate about the citizen science and research being done at CNC, and the research endowment fund now bears his name.



You may know about his involvement in the Native Plant Society of Texas, whose Boerne Chapter he helped start, but did you know that he was behind the NICE (Natives Instead of Common Invasives) program the Boerne Chapter organized to help educate the public about the benefits of native plants? Did you also know that he discovered (along with Patty Leslie Pasztor) one of the few remaining wild colonies of Big Red Sage along Cibolo Creek? He also wrote a column for the “Boerne Star” on all things native called “Native Grown.”

I was forever bringing him plant samples to identify for me, or fossils I found on my place, or even rocks I’d picked up on different trips. I had picked up some for him at Olduvai Gorge in Africa on my last trip. I got a lot of grief from the others on our trip for carrying rocks in my backpack, but I just knew Dr. Ward would love it.



**He was into everything — native plants, birds, water conservation, you name it!**



I had one special rock set aside for him, but I never got a chance to give it to him. He taught me a lot about all things animal, vegetable and mineral, but he taught me more about how to be a better human being. He always made me feel special and that what I had to say had merit. I would have picked up a boulder the size of a Volkswagen and carried it all day for him and never blinked. Lest you think I exaggerate, there were literally hundreds of people at his memorial who felt just like me. He had an enormous impact on everyone who knew him. I don't want you to think he was a saint; he had a wicked sense of humor and could grinch with the best of them. But when all was said and done, he knew it was better to work on solutions than to focus on problems. I feel very privileged to call him my friend. Let me also tell you, he would have been very embarrassed at all of the laud being heaped upon his name. But as several of us said at the memorial, "you're just going to have to put up with it!" And I know that he is watching over us now.

So, I can only say to you that the most fitting tribute to this modest man who gave so much of himself, is to follow in his footsteps. To treat the earth and its resources as precious gifts to be studied and preserved and to pass along our knowledge to others. To treat each other as unique and special individuals who deserve to be cherished. And most of all, to get out there and make a difference.

**Susan Bogle**—The Master Naturalist organization lost a mentor and supporter, and I lost a real friend when Dr. Bill Ward passed away from a stroke. Dr. Ward was to me the model of a modern renaissance man, in that his interests, curiosity and knowledge transcended any one area.

But Dr. Ward's interests and studies went well beyond that professional realm, as he also pursued birding,



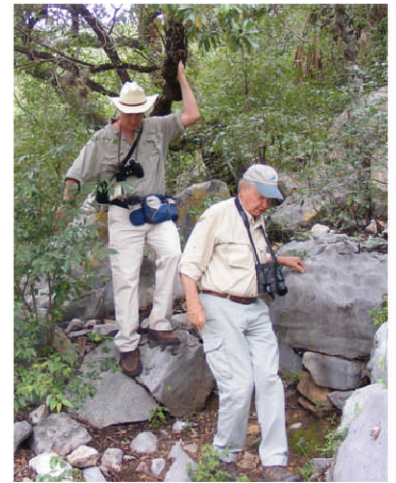
He was a trained geologist, having received his degrees from both the University of Texas and Rice University.

botany, journalism, international cultures and so many other areas that are just too numerous to name. In fact, he had most recently even taken up an interest in cross country skiing.

Dr. Ward delighted in life and all things natural, surrounded by a loving family and a lifetime of friendships. He was a gifted teacher whose quiet and self-effacing nature made him so very approachable to those of us who needed him to explain and to clarify our, oh so many questions. Dr. Ward kept insisting that I call him "Bill", but I found that very difficult because of my utmost respect for him. It was only when his face hit a certain shade of red that I would have to give in.

Dr. Ward has most assuredly left a lasting legacy, not only in his professional world, but also in the Texas Hill Country that he loved and studied. I will miss him - more than I can say.

**John Siemssen**—I don't remember when I first met Dr. Ward. I certainly was acquainted with him when Janet and I went on a Native Plant trip to El Cielo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. He had been there before, but wanted to take a group of Texas Native Plant enthusiasts back to explore and appreciate the amazing flora of that location. What I learned about him on that trip was that he was a man of vast knowledge and curiosity. I'll never forget his excitement when he "discovered" a patch of hairy maiden hair fern on the banks of the Rio Sabino. He would tell anyone who would listen that the only other place he was aware of its existence was below the Medina Dam, and that this population was much bigger.



Exploring plants in tucked away rock crevices in the mountains of Mexico

Although Dr Ward was a Geologist by training, his love and knowledge of native plants was incredible. He regularly contributed articles on Native Plants to the Boerne Star as well as various Native Plant Society of Texas publications. That he was always seeking new things was really driven home to me as I was looking through my pictures from the El Cielo trip. Almost every one that I had with Dr Ward in it showed only his back, as he was off to find something new to be discovered. He will be deeply missed.

## Lone Star State Master Naturalists Conference

Judy Bruphacher



In October 2010, Texas chapters of Master Naturalists met for their annual conference at TBarM in New Braunfels, Texas. Over 300 members of chapters around the state attended the three day event

to visit displays, watch demonstrations, and listen to speakers.

The keynote speaker at the conference, Andy Samson, former executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was a hit with the Master Naturalists. His focus was on the urbanization of Texas, a state that was mainly rural and agricultural until just recently. He noted that the population of the state will double by 2040 and that 90 percent of that population will have never visited a farm. He said that more Texans than ever spend over six hours daily using some sort of technical device. This is a big change over the early twentieth century when most people lived on farms or ranches and a technical device was a pocket watch.

Mr. Samson elaborated that in order to save the natural resources of Texas work must be done to prevent breakup of large family farms and ranches. Last year alone 1.5 to 2 million acres of such agricultural land was used to build shopping malls, housing tracts or other developments. This action diminishes watersheds, affects recharge zones, and eliminates habitat for wildlife. He also noted that despite the challenges to Texas in the twenty-first century, Texans have risen to the challenge of maintaining our natural resources. The population of white-tail deer, once nearly extinct, has bounced back to the point of almost over-population. Wild turkeys have also made a come back with more in the state now than before WWI. Water has become cleaner than in the 1950s and the erosion of topsoil

has been greatly reduced by improved farm practices and the education of small land holders.

Thanks to efforts of the Agricultural Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department working with landowners to improve existing open land, recent studies show it is in better condition today than in the early 1900s.

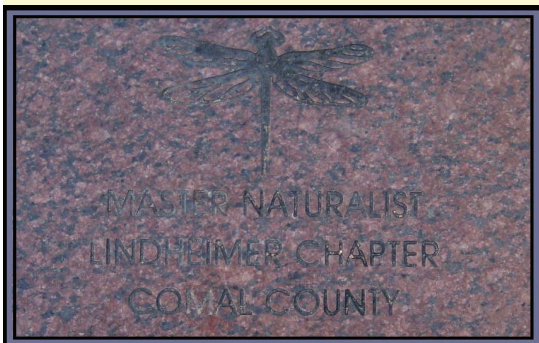
Andy told the group that the next major ecological problem to face Texas is the condition of and availability of water. Water rights in Texas have long been a problem. He warned that we have already sold or given away rights to withdraw more water from Texas rivers than is in them. Unfortunately, water usage is such a contentious issue; the legislature routinely avoids taking any action. This means the problem will continue to occupy us for many years as it



turns from serious to critical.

The Lindheimer Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists in Comal County was the host chapter for the conference. The Lindheimer Chapter led tours, helped to set up and take down displays, assisted speakers, and completed the many other tasks required by the state organization to make the conference a very successful event.

Valerie Reddell, editor of the Polk County Enterprise, is credited with most of the information in this article. To read her entire story, it's available online: <http://www.easttexasnews.com/Enterprise/News/Ind/October2010/story11.html>



## Tye Preston Memorial Library Update

Susan Bogle

The Tye Preston Memorial Library has moved into its beautiful new facility to the delight of the Canyon Lake community. Our Lindheimer Chapter has always had a close relationship with the library, even choosing to sponsor an engraved granite block for its Pathway of Friends, which is in the patio area in the front of the library.

In locating this block to its new position, it was found to have many blank bricks adjacent to it. This is a terrific opportunity for our members to support the library while also connecting their name to the Lindheimer

Chapter. Just buy a brick for a donation to the library of \$50, which would include two lines on the brick, with up to 14 characters per line. Then designate that your brick be located adjacent to our Lindheimer block. It would be wonderful to have our block surrounded by the names of our members - what a show of support for both the Chapter and the library!



## Texas Master Naturalist – Lindheimer Chapter Hosted The 2010 Annual Meeting In New Braunfels



Friday evening speaker, Debbie Figueras-Cano, Waste Management's Community Relations Manager, talked about Industry/Community Partnerships. She highlighted the work the Lindheimer Chapter has done in helping the Mesquite Creek Wildlife Habitat Area become certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council.



**Meals at T-Bar-M:** An opportunity to meet and socialize with other TMN members from across the state



**Ric Green, Waste Management Manager, speaking to the TMN tour group about the Mesquite Creek Wildlife Habitat Area (MCWHA)**



**TMN Group Touring MCWHA's pond (above)  
And old Elm Grove (left)**



## An introduction to the “Comal Seeders” – the 13th TMN – Lindheimer Chapter Class

### Many thanks to Carol Wilson and to the New Class for This Contribution!

**Carroll Allison** graduated from San Benito H.S. in 1957, and Texas A&I University in Kingsville in 1965. He grew up in the Rio Grande Valley, where his father was a farmer. He’s worked as a salesman all his life, and is currently an advertising salesman for the Hilltop Reporter. He’s married to Toni Allison and they share six children and 17 grandchildren.

**Toni Allison** has been a lifelong nature and animal lover. Most of her life has been spent in San Antonio, but she’s also lived in Kerrville, Austin, Colorado and Nebraska. Toni has always felt a draw to the Hill Country, so when she and her husband, Carroll retired, they moved to the Canyon Lake area so they could be closer to nature.

**Leroy Bradley** and his wife, Sue, retired in New Braunfels after living three years in Lagos Nigeria, Africa, while finishing his career with ExxonMobil. Leroy is a native Texan and avid outdoorsman. His reason for participating in the TMN program is to learn more about the wildlife, plants, and ecology of Texas in general, and this area in particular.

**Richard Bradley** lives on 11+ acres east of the city of Bulverde. He retired over two years ago, and now is doing all those “crazy” things he’s always wanted to do but never had time. Last year, he completed the Comal Master Gardener program, and the next challenge is the TMN program. Richard’s desire is to return his land back to nature with native grasses, springs (he’s already “birthed” two springs that didn’t exist when he bought the land).

**Courtney Burkhardt** truly looks forward to becoming a Master Naturalist. She has spent her entire life catching insects, reptiles, amphibians, etc! She doesn’t leave home without her handy Texas field guides. She was lucky to grow up in New Braunfels, and has a strong desire to keep our unique area as natural and beautiful as possible. She is raising her five-year-old son to explore, observe, and to acknowledge nature’s gifts.

**Sue Dallis** is a native and lifelong resident of Comal County. She has always practiced conservation, recycling, composting, and planting native. She has rehabilitated orphaned wildlife, and has worked for TSA since its inception. Her greatest personal accomplishment has been keeping the traveling public safe even when faced with resistance.

**Carol and Jim Entringer** recently retired from teaching and the Dow Chemical Company, and moved to Spring Branch. They’ve always enjoyed the outdoors and are interested in learning more about the natural resources “from their doorstep to beyond.”

**Nancy Howe Fitzpatrick** moved to New Braunfels from rainy, hurricane-prone Southeast Texas, where she taught at Lamar University-Beaumont and owned a private Pilates studio. She and her husband are/were avid gardeners, and the challenges present in this climate keep them busy. She joined the TMN program to learn more about the native plants and participate in its programs.

**Lucy Guerra** was born and raised in Texas. She lived in Austin for 23 years and fell in love with the beauty of the outdoors—the Texas Hill Country swimming holes, rivers, lakes, and parks.

She chose to become a Master Naturalist to learn all she can to protect our precious environment, and to share her love of the outdoors with others.

**Robyn Johannsen** lived in the San Antonio-New Braunfels-Austin area for 25 years, and relocated to Canyon Lake seven years ago. An avid outdoors person, she desires to develop a deeper knowledge of the natural environment, and to volunteer in her community. The area of knowledge that most interests Robyn is how our environment is changing and how we as humans can lessen our impact.

**Carol Landry** has lived in Texas since she was a teenager and has always been a lover of nature and outdoor activities. The TMN program is a new type of experience for her. She’s still working and is helping to raise two granddaughters, while also teaching them about nature. Her goal is to learn enough about our natural environment to allow her to help creating and maintaining the natural areas she loves to visit.

**Jim McFeeley:** Nature Lover!

**Sandy and Lynn McLemore:** Sandy, an educator, and Lynn, a pharmacist, retired and moved from Houston to New Braunfels this past year. The TMN program will enable them to contribute to their new community by supporting, preserving, enhancing, and protecting the beautiful New Braunfels area and surrounding environment.

**Richard Mizanin:** retired from the Caterpillar Tractor/Engine business after 35 years, during which he had various assignments all over the globe. After retirement, he worked as a trail guide at an Illinois bison park. He’s always loved the outdoors, and managed to hike in many different countries when he worked for Caterpillar.

**Rich Nielson** was born in Nebraska and hopes to spend the rest of his days in Texas.

**Dodi Patterson** was born in Houston. Growing up, her folks took her and her two younger brothers camping every summer along the Guadalupe River at the “K & L Ranch”, where she fell in love with the Hill Country and especially the Guadalupe. After she lost her younger brother in a mountain climbing accident in 1992, Dodi used the inheritance he left her to buy property in Wimberley.

**Laura Paulson:** “Everything in Texas is new and different after a childhood in the Midwest,” followed by 30 years in California where she lived in a redwood forest a few miles from Monterey Bay. She volunteered at Año Nuevo State Reserve and Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve, leading elephant seal rookery tours and plant walks. “Can’t wait to learn about my new home!”

**Tom Rueckle** is a lifelong resident of New Braunfels with a long-time interest in nature. He has taken trail guide training at Frederick Park and led walks there and in Boerne. He’s also taken courses in botany (his main interest) at Texas State U and conducted plant surveys for The Nature Conservancy. He enjoys birding, geology, and learning about the Hill Country.



**Karen Sewell** was born and raised in Dallas, and has been in New Braunfels since 1985. Nature has been her passion since she was a young girl. She believes that to ensure that our natural resources far outlive our generation, we must teach and inspire our children about what we've learned and love. Her personal interests include archeology, geology and ecology.

**Jim Teeling** was born and grew up in Dallas. After college, he joined the USAF Reserves during the Vietnam war and spent six years at Carswell AFB doing monthly weekend duty as a medic. He joined his dad in a family boutique mortgage company. His hobbies are cooking, sailing, SCUBA diving, hunting, fishing, handball, and traveled widely across the globe and the U.S.

**Linda Thomas** grew up in Austin, lived in San Antonio for many years, and has been in New Braunfels the last 18 years. She recently retired from Texas State U, where she taught Health

Information Management. She and her husband spend most of their free time working on 13 acres they soon hope to call home where she hopes to provide a natural habitat for critters, and a place for exploration and discovery for their grandchildren.

**Carol Wilson** was born in Brooklyn, NY, and graduated SUNY Plattsburgh 1970. She lived in San Antonio 1980-1990. After 19 years away from Texas, she returned April 2009, settling on .6 acres overlooking the Canyon Dam. She works in the Dripping Springs Home Depot Garden Center, learning about native, drought-, and deer-resistant plants. She recently planted six live oaks in a grouping on her property, and has long-term plans to restore her land to its former habitat. Carol enjoys volunteering for hands-on work projects.



**Heritage Museum Comal Seeders Class Project:**

**Inspecting garden trail and constructing new bridge**



**First tour of Mesquite Creek Pollinator Garden**

**and the old Elm Grove**

## Removing the Devil's Debris

Michael Varhola

As someone who wants to give back to his community, one of the things I like about the Texas Master Naturalist program is that it is service-oriented and requires that its members complete at least 40 hours a year on volunteer activities in order to receive or retain their certification.

As someone who recently graduated from the year-long master naturalist training course just a few months ago, however, one of the things about the program I am not wild about is that it requires its members to complete at least 40 hours on volunteer activities to receive their certification. And, suffice it to say, I am not quite there yet...

There are ample opportunities for obtaining volunteer hours, of course, and many nearby venues are approved as places where chapter members can get credit for helping out as needed.

These include, for example, the Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country, Cibolo Nature Center, and Bamberger Ranch. Each annual class run by our local Lindheimer chapter also has its own projects, and those of my class – the “Free Mequiteers,” a name I’m afraid we will never live down – have included building a pond at an elementary school and constructing trails at a nature preserve owned by Waste Management.

Up until recently, however, I tended to be overly busy doing things associated with running the local weekly newspaper, generally at times when more normal people are inclined to work on such projects, and have thus had to get my hours in where and when I can.

With that in mind, I proposed and got approved a volunteer project that involves clearing non-organic debris out of an undeveloped area called the Devil's Hollow, a dry creek bed that stretches about two-and-a-half miles

between FM 306 and the Guadalupe River.

The density of the debris scattered throughout the Devil's Hollow is not particularly high, and locating it is sort of like mining for gems in reverse; rather than digging through tons of rock and earth for a handful of precious stones, it is a matter of searching an otherwise-beautiful wild area and collecting the few unnatural things that do not belong there.

During a foray into the Devil's Hollow last fall, for example, I spent an hour working my way through the rocky creek bed and during that time found a

bed that, embedded under a boulder, I was unable to police up during that trip, having neglected to bring my wire cutters. I find a lot of this sort of thing, sometimes as much as 20 feet in length and often wrapped around tree trunks, and, while I could try to dismantle and carry it out wholesale, I usually just lop off a few feet, roll it up into a ball that it will fit in a trash bag, and leave the rest until next time.

(Things I don't mess with include builders materials like chunks of brick or wood, which are only one place removed from their natural counterparts – and, even if the timber is treated

and resistant to decomposition, it is at least fairly well camouflaged.)

My most recent ventures into the Devil's Hollow, since the New Year, have been especially productive, in part because the abundance of rain we have been experiencing has washed so much debris down through the stream bed. During the first of three days in January, I went into the ravine with my friends Carson and Josh Mayo and together we removed, among other things, two tires, a cooler, numerous cans and plastic bottles, and a ball of wire.



bag-full of detritus that included a rotting tennis ball; a plastic water bottle; a sheet of hard plastic, roughly a foot square, that I had to snap into four parts to fit into my trash bag; and a few miscellaneous bits of Styrofoam and plastic.

I also found a long strip of corrugated sheet metal, about six feet long and nine-inches wide, crumpled up like a ribbon and wedged into the trunk of a tree. Dislodging it took a bit of effort and, once I had done so, I hauled it up the nearby dirt road, it being too heavy and bulky to haul with me through the ravine.

There was also a long rusty strand of barbed wire tangled up in the creek

Not all of my expeditions, of course, produce as much refuse for the effort I put into retrieving it, especially as most of it would never be seen by anybody anyway. But it is stuff that will contaminate the environment for years or even decades, which is potentially harmful to wildlife, and which will eventually wash down into the Guadalupe and, thereafter, into Canyon Lake. And doing anything I can to help prevent those ill effects is worth my time and effort. Now I just need to do a little bit more of it ...



## A Backyard Archeological Site

Ray Laxson



On April 15, 2010 Floyd McKee brought some of the artifacts he had recovered from his backyard and gave a presentation to the LMN chapter. Floyd lives alongside the Guadalupe River in Seguin. By accident, he discovered that his backyard contained a treasure trove of ancient Native American artifacts. He had scooped up a load of dirt to smooth out his front yard. Overnight it rained and when he came out in the morning, he found many artifacts lying on top of the ground where the rain had washed away the earth. Floyd said he found several axe heads and lots of arrowheads. With every new scoop of dirt, he discovered more artifacts.

That started an intense examination of the area behind his house. Floyd made contact with Southern Texas Archaeological Association that is now working on further excavations, and with Robert Everett, a local archeologist who is a steward with the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Archeological Stewardship Network. Everett stated that



the site was the richest archeological site he had seen on the Guadalupe River in 35 years. Most of the artifacts are on display at the Seguin-Guadalupe County Heritage Museum.

The McKee collection includes knives, adzes, drills, awls, spear points and arrowheads.

In October the Heritage Museum sponsored a Show and Tell display at the McKee site. Flint knappers (folks who fashion tools and weapons from stone) were also invited and demonstrated some of their techniques and wares. Southern Texas Archaeological Association was also on-site excavating and showing some of their finds.

Floyd and his wife Jody live on the 4-acre site in the historic Saffold House that was built in 1865. As Floyd approached retirement from the military, Jody was sent to Seguin to locate housing. Floyd said that Jody called him to report that she had found a diamond in the rough but that it was a 'fixer-upper.' A major understatement said Floyd - since there was only chicken wire on the windows and the upstairs bathroom floor had collapsed onto the lower level. Small animals of every sort populated the house and the local rumor was that the place was haunted.



The original owner, William Saffold had serious health problems. He wrote his own obituary for the newspaper, invited his friends and relatives for a final visit and then committed suicide in the upstairs bedroom. Included in the Saffold house purchase contract was a clause that said the McKee's were aware that the house might be haunted. Soon after they moved in and began renovation, Jody dreamed that the old piano that had been left by some previous occupant began to play itself. But, the instrument keys were stuck together and it could not be played. A few nights later, low notes coming from the piano as if it was playing itself awakened the couple. After some concerned investigation the piano stopped playing. The next day they discovered a large rat was living inside the piano and was playing notes from inside the instrument.

Today restoration on the Saffold House is nearing completion. From the outside, it is a beautiful building. Its reputation as being haunted is gradually diminishing.

The next time you are in Seguin, you will find a visit to the Heritage Museum to see the McKee artifact collection worthwhile. It's quite a collection to be found in a backyard.

## Native Plant of the Season: Possumhaw Holly

John Siemssen

While driving along the back roads of the Hill Country during the early winter, some of the most conspicuous color comes from the brilliant red fruit of this deciduous holly (*Ilex decidua*). Unlike the evergreen Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), this plant loses its leaves in the winter, allowing the berries to stand out and leading to its other common name, Deciduous Holly. The fact that it is often found growing along fence rows is testimony to the fact that the berries are eaten by (and subsequently 'planted' by) birds, but small mammals also enjoy the fruit.

Possumhaw can grow in a wide variety of soils. It has a medium to low water requirement and can tolerate poor drainage. While it will grow in part shade, the best berry production occurs in full sun. Berries are born on the female plants, and can vary in color intensity, so buy plants which have berries on them to be sure you get the color you prefer. It can become a small, 15' - 30' tall tree, but is most often seen as a shrub. It is locally available in nurseries. Plants propagated by seed will be variable in their berry production and color.



Photographer: Northington, David K.

## Hill Country News

### Land Donation – Kendall and Bandera Counties – 3K Ranch

#### 3K Ranch Area is compared to Lost Maples

The [Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission](#) voted Thursday to accept a gift of 3,757 acres of land eight miles west of Boerne to be turned into a state park or natural area.

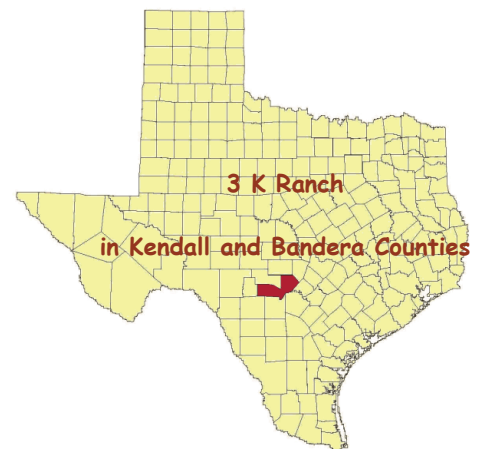
The 3K Ranch was part of the Albert and Bessie Kronkosky estate. She died last year and was preceded by her husband.

The rugged property has several small canyons that protect mature stands of Bigtooth Maples similar to those in the Lost Maples State Natural Area.

According to a state biologist who surveyed the property, the rugged terrain has multiple canyons sheltering several stands of Bigtooth Maples similar to those of Lost Maples State Natural Area, which is more than 2,100 acres in Bandera and Real counties.

The ranch also has pockets of plant species that are found only in the Hill Country.

If the state had not accepted the 3K property, it would have been offered to the [Boy Scouts of America](#). If the Boy Scouts of America had not accepted the 3K Ranch, it would have been put in trust of the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation and then could have eventually been sold.





## Wind Farms and Transmission Lines

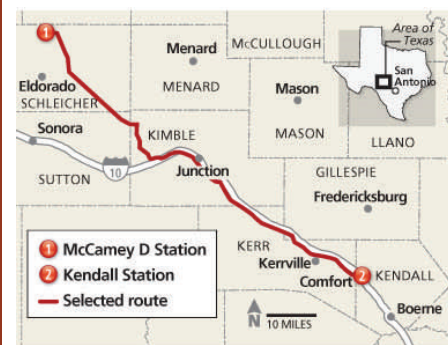
### Janet Siemssen



At long last, after two years of study and much debate on where to build a major new power line in the Hill Country, state regulators opted in late January to run it mostly along Interstate 10. The power line will be transporting electricity generated by West Texas wind farms.

The 3-0 vote by the [Public Utility Commission](#) in Austin drew sighs of relief from many property owners along other routes considered for the 140-mile line. However, it was a big disappointment for Kerr County officials who had asked that the line be kept away from Kerrville, an area with the greatest population in the entire study region. Kerr County officials were concerned that it would deface the city's gateway and devalue prime commercial parcels.

The route picked wasn't recommended by the Lower Colorado River Authority, (LCRA) or the administra-



Sources: Public Utility Commission, Lower Colorado River Authority

EXPRESS-NEWS GRAPHIC

#### Power Struggle

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) has selected this route, with minor variations, for a new 345-kilovolt power line that officials say is needed to relieve congestion of the state's electric grid and to convey power generated by wind farms in West Texas and the Panhandle to urban areas. Lattice towers will carry the line in rural areas, while monopoles will be used inside the city limits of Junction and Kerrville.

tive hearing judge on the case. When the LCRA filed its application for approval of the route, it identified as its preferred route an almost-straight line that had little consideration for property lines or the sensitive Hill Country environment.

Clear View Alliance (CVA) witnesses and those for several other parties identified many concerns about LCRA's preferred route and urged the Commission to site the line along compatible rights-of-ways such as U.S. Highway 277 and I-10. (LCRA has the power to use eminent domain to secure easements on private property).

The PUC's approved route meets many of Clear View's goals and they consider it an improvement over LCRA's original route. Although the approved route does not follow U.S. Highway 277, it does follow I-10 from west of Junction to the Comfort area.

The decision to follow I-10 also spared the Tierra Linda subdivision in Gillespie County. Gillespie County Judge Mark Stroehrer also supported the I-10 route, saying: "People driving along the I-10 route are used to seeing commercial and industrial uses, along with utility uses," he told the PUC.

The Commission's route improves on the route initially recommended by administrative law judges by moving the line south of the airport in Junction to avoid impacting on aviation near the Kimble County Airport and following I-10 through Kerrville instead of going through the Hill Country on a route that could have expanded the scourge of oak wilt in the area by the widespread cutting of vulnerable red and live oaks in hundreds of acres.

The PUC also approved significant use of monopoles, especially along I-10 and on some of the disproportionately affected landowners in the

rural areas where the line will be located. Clear View supported the use of monopoles along the entire line.

Although the PUC agreed to use monopoles inside Kerrville and Junction instead of the larger lattice towers, it declined to bury portions of the lines due to the cost that's said to top \$60 million per mile. Monopoles cost about \$250,000 a mile, about 25 percent more than lattice towers that can be sited farther apart.



Kerrville Mayor David Wampler said it's unfortunate that neighbors were pitted against each other, as were counties, in picking a route for the line that will connect substations in Schleicher and Kendall counties. The I-10 path was backed by Gillespie and Mason counties.

Beside carrying power from rural wind farms to urban areas, officials said the line is needed to relieve congestion on the state's electric grid.

The 345-kilovolt line will be built by the [Lower Colorado River Authority's Transmission Services Corp.](#), with completion set for December 2013.

In opting to mirror Interstate 10 from Comfort to west of Junction, PUC members cited the feedback at community meetings across the region that showed public support for running the line along existing rights of way. They also said they tried to avoid homes and businesses, where possible.

Sources:

<http://www.clearviewalliance.org/>

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/energy/article/Power-line-willparallelinterstate-969056.php#ixzz1CkaAOHEc>

## For Your Information and Calendar: Central Texas Events

*Please note:*

*Some of these events may not qualify for advanced training credit.*

*All may need pre-approval by the Projects Committee.*

*Events with an asterisks repeat on other dates.*

**Attracting Bluebirds;** Saturday, February 12

David Smith and the Texas Bluebird Society will present a program on attracting and observing bluebirds and other cavity-nesting birds. Topics will include environmental needs, nest boxes, and monitoring bird populations. This presentation should be of use to both beginners and more experienced birders. Space is limited and reservations are required. A free nestbox will be available at this event with the purchase of a \$15 membership.

**Location:** Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

**Time:** 1 – 3:30 p.m. **Cost:** Free for MLAC, non-members \$5

**Information:** <http://www2.texasbluebirdsociety.org/events/mlac@audubon.org>

**Basic Birding Workshop (Classroom Session);** Saturday, February 12

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.

**Location:** Cibolo Nature Center auditorium

**Time:** 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. **Cost:** CNC members \$20, non-members \$25

**Information:** <http://www.cibolo.org>; (830) 249-4616

**\* Honey Creek Guided Tour;** Saturday, February 12

Wear comfortable shoes and dress for weather!

**Location:** Honey Creek Park/Rust House

**Time:** 9 a.m. – noon

**Cost:** —A donation of \$2 per person or \$5 per family is requested.

**Information:** (210) 520-6412

<http://www.honeycreekfriends.com/>

**Attracting Birds Workshop, Part 1;** Saturday, February 19

Dick Park, local birder and land owner, will demonstrate how he attracts nesting, migrant, and wintering birds to his land and show the techniques that have resulted in more than 180 species of birds recorded there. After a presentation and discussion on attracting birds, participants will go outside to see practical examples of habitat enhancement and recommended bird foods, feeder and water placement, brush piles, and nest boxes. Carpool from CNC parking lot promptly at 9 a.m.

**Location:** Cibolo Nature Center parking lot/Old Daley Ranch

**Time:** 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. **Cost:** CNC members \$20, non-members \$25

**Information:** <http://www.cibolo.org>; (830) 249-4616

**\* Beginning Bird Walk;** Saturday, February 19

Enjoy birds in their native habitats and bask in the relaxing atmosphere found in the botanical garden during a morning bird walk led by an experienced guide every third Saturday of the month. Bird walks are free with garden admission.

**Location:** San Antonio Botanical Garden

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Cost:** Free (\$6-\$8 admission)

**Information:** <http://www.sabot.org>

**Grasses: They're Not Just for Mowing!** Saturday, February 19

This 10th Native Plant Spring Symposium will focus on the native grasses of Texas, what species are great for the home landscape, an overview of native grasses that provide habitat, food, and shelter for wildlife, and invasive grasses. The morning plenary session will be followed by two afternoon hands-on workshops.

**Location:** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

**Time:** 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Cost:** \$65

**Information:** <http://wildflower.org/springsymposium>

**What Can You Learn from a Dinosaur Track?;**

Wednesday, February 23

Everett Deschner from the Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country will give this "Lunch and Learn" presentation.

**Location:** Tye Preston Memorial Library

**Time:** Noon – 1 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Information:** <http://www.tpml.org>

**Basic Birding Workshop (Outdoor Session);** Saturday, February 26

Join Tom and Patsy Inglet "in the field" for the outdoor portion on the Basic Birding Workshop. Participants will learn how to identify birds and hone spotting skills using tips and tricks from some of the best birders in south Texas.

**Location:** Cibolo Nature Center park

**Time:** 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**Cost:** TBA

**Information:** <http://www.cibolo.org>; (830) 249-4616

**\* Rainwater Harvest Workshop;** Saturday, February 26

Engineer and rainwater catchment owner John Kight gives the latest technological information and the most practical advice. Learn about design and materials from someone who has done it himself! The Kight home, with no well or outside water source, is in a traditional development and its system comfortably supplies delicious water for all household and landscape needs.

**Location:** Cibolo Nature Center library/Kight installation

**Time:** 9 a.m. – noon

**Cost:** CNC members \$25, non-members \$35

**Information:** <http://www.cibolo.org>; (830) 249-4616

**Nature Nights: Astronomy;** Friday, March 4

Look to the stars and discover wonders of the night sky at the Wildflower Center. Take a tour of the evening skies for familiar and mysterious points of light and the wonder they provide. Nature Nights are supported through volunteer efforts by Capital Area Master Naturalist volunteers and programs.

**Location:** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

**Time:** 6 – 9 p.m.

**Cost:** \$1

**Information:** <http://wildflower.org/nature>

**Attracting Birds Workshop, Part 2;** Saturday, March 5

Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist Rufus Stephens will begin with a talk on how to manage different habitats to provide food, cover and space needed by Hill Country birds. This is a systematic approach to bird species diversity. Program includes use of Kendall County Bird Checklist for easy record keeping and time outside examining native plants important to wildlife. **Location:** Cibolo Nature Center auditorium/park

**Time:** 9 a.m. – noon

**Cost:** CNC members \$20, non-members \$25

**Information:** <http://www.cibolo.org>; (830) 249-4616

**\* Native Plant Walk;** Friday, March 11

Explore our 11-acre Texas Native Trail with a Texas Master Naturalist! This month's walk will focus on the South Texas Trail, which showcases dryland trees and shrubs such as mesquite, huisache, cenizo, ebony, and sotol.

**Location:** San Antonio Botanical Garden

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Cost:** Free (\$6-\$8 admission)

**Information:** <http://www.sabot.org>

**\* Bamberger Ranch Tour;** Saturday, March 12

On this three-and-a-half hour tour of the ranch visitors will see the results of 37 years of habitat restoration and projects that demonstrate principles of good stewardship. Highlights might also include dinosaur tracks, fossil beds, a herd of endangered Scimitar-horned Oryx, a man-made bat cave designed to hold a million Mexican Free-tailed bats.

**Location:** Bamberger Ranch **Time:** 9 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15 **Information:** <http://www.bambergerranch.org>



**Natural Landscape Design Class;** Saturday, March 19  
Judith Green, TPWD urban biologist, will focus on using native and adapted plants in this landscaping program. She will offer design, installation, and maintenance tips, as well as ideas about plants to incorporate in your design, especially with “deer in the garden” challenges. Then, a tour of CNC’s new and established native landscape will show some of these plants in the ground. Go home with a list of drought-tolerant plants that are attractive to humans, butterflies, and birds. This workshop is a great start for a new design in your garden.  
**Location:** Cibolo Nature Center auditorium  
**Time:** 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**Cost:** CNC members \$20, non-members \$25  
**Information:** <http://www.cibolo.org>; (830) 249-4616

**Nature Nights: Wildflowers and Pollinators;** Friday, April 1  
Did you know that 90 percent of all plants rely on animals to pollinate them? That some bees actually buzz the pollen out of flowers? That bats are attracted to flowers that are light-colored and bloom at night? Join as we explore the interesting and often unique relationships between wildflowers and their pollinators!  
**Location:** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
**Time:** 6 – 9 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$1  
**Information:** <http://wildflower.org/nature>

**Dinosaur Day 2011;** Sunday, April 10  
This event will celebrate and focus on the museum’s Cretaceous-Era Dinosaur footprint trackway, with guided tours and special talks with Paleontologist Chip Davis from George Blasing’s Dinosaur World of San Antonio.  
**Location:** Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country  
**Time:** Noon – 5 p.m.  
**Cost:** TBA  
**Information:** <http://www.theheritagemuseum.com>

**Hill Country Land Stewardship Workshop;** Saturday, April 16  
A day on Bamberger Ranch with emphasis on “Stewardship” for the large or small landowner or anyone considering buying land, who wants to know how to improve land for all plant and animal species. This outdoor workshop will be conducted by our experienced ranch personnel. You will look at and examine the many projects that demonstrate the principles which have been successfully used on this ranch. Subjects include cedar management, water, grasses, tree planting, managing land for wildlife, endangered plants and animals, and Wildlife Agricultural Exemptions. Includes a short hike, coffee breaks, and lunch.  
**Location:** Bamberger Ranch  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$100  
**Information:** <http://www.bambergerranch.org>

**Earth Day Celebration;** Saturday, April 30  
This 5th annual event will spotlight the theme of “sustainability,” which recognizes human interaction with the planet and impacts on the environment. It will also highlight the importance of the community coming together to make responsible choices and incorporate practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Activities will include educational activities, recycling and green building displays, live entertainment, recreation opportunities, delicious local food and local vendor booths, and glass bottom boat and kayak tours.  
**Location:** Aquarena Center (San Marcos Springs)  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. 5 p.m.  
**Cost:** Free  
**Information:** <http://www.aquarena.txstate.edu/Events/Earth-Day.html>



*Some of the above events may not qualify for advanced training credit.*

*AND: All may need pre-approval by the Projects Committee.*

*Events with an asterisks repeat on other dates.*

## 2011 TMN-LC Planning Calendar

### February 2011

1 – LMN Class, 6 – 9 pm  
17 – LMN Chapter Meeting, 7 – 9 pm  
28 – LMN Board Meeting, 6:00 – 7:00

### March 2011

1 – LMN Class, 6 – 9 pm  
17 – LMN Chapter Meeting, 7 – 9 pm  
28 – LMN Board Meeting, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

### April 2011

5 – LMN Class, 6 – 9 pm  
21 – LMN Chapter Meeting, 7 – 9 pm  
25 – LMN Board Meeting, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

### May 2011

3 – LMN Class, 6 – 9 pm  
19 – LMN Chapter Meeting, 7 – 9 pm  
23 – LMN Board Meeting, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

### June 2011

7 – LMN Class, 6 – 9 pm  
16 – LMN Chapter Meeting, 7 – 9 pm  
27 – LMN Board Meeting

### July 2011

5 – LMN Class, 6 – 9 pm  
21 – LMN Chapter Meeting, 7 – 9 pm  
25 – LMN Board Meeting, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

### August 2011

2 – LMN Class, 6- 9 pm  
18 – LMN Chapter Meeting, 7 – 9 pm  
22 – LMN Board Meeting, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

### September 2011

6 – LMN Class, 6-9 pm  
15 – LMN Chapter Meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 pm  
26 – LMN Board Meeting, 6 – 9 pm

### October 2011

4 - LMN Class  
20 – LMN Chapter Meeting & Graduation, 7 – 9 pm  
24 – 2011-2012 Class Orientation

### November 2011

1 – LMN Class, 6 – 9 pm  
17 – LMN Chapter Meeting, 7 – 9 pm  
28 – LMN Board Meeting, 6 – 7 pm

### December 2011

6 – LMN Class, 6 – 9 pm  
15 – LMN Chapter Meeting & Christmas Party, 7 – 9 pm

**TMN-LC OFFICERS - 2011**

President:  
Coco Brennan

Vice President:  
David Simpton

Past President:  
David Reel

Secretary:  
Irene Newhall

Treasurer:  
Janet Hahn

Volunteer Council  
Representative:  
David Reel

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Education Coordinator:  
Marlin Brendsel

Membership & Records:  
Charlie Thomas

sbtxt19"at-symbol"gvtc.com \*

Communications:  
Edie Zaiantz

Out and About:  
Janet Wilson

Volunteer Projects:  
Diane Schaule

Community Recognition:  
Caroline Carpenter

Publicity:  
Laurie Espil-Goode

Historian:  
Yvette Vollbrecht

Texas AgriLife  
Extension Service Advisor:  
Glenn Avriett

TMN-LC Newsletter  
Winter 2011 Edition:  
Janet Siemssen

tmnlindheimer"at-symbol"yahoo.com \*

\* Delete "at-symbol" and insert @

**The TMN 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. Many communities and organizations rely on such citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. In fact, a short supply of dedicated and well-informed volunteers is often cited as a limiting factor for community-based conservation.

**ADVANCED TRAINING: - Section J of Your TMN Membership Manual**

1. Advanced Training is meant to provide TMN volunteers an opportunity to focus their interests on one or a few specific topics that interest them.
2. Advanced Training opportunities must be approved in advance by the Projects Committee.
3. Acquiring Advanced Training Hours:
  - a. Advanced training courses may be made available directly through TAE, TPWD, chapter sponsored activities, or any number of short courses provided by universities, conservation groups, or nature centers, etc.
  - b. The Projects Committee must review and pre-approve all advanced training. Educational television shows are not a form of advanced training and will not be approved.
  - c. The Projects Committee will use the following criteria when reviewing and approving Advanced Training:
 

Does the Advanced Training opportunity:

    1. Promote continued learning and development of naturalist skills?
    2. Provide the Texas Master Naturalist with knowledge and skills to work in volunteer efforts?
    3. Directly train volunteers toward specific programs in need of their services?
    4. Provide practical information and training for application in volunteer efforts?
    5. Take advantage of local partnerships?  
Provide the Master Naturalists an opportunity to focus their interests in one or a few specific topics?
    7. Build on the core curriculum initially provided by the local chapter?
    8. Provide natural resource management issues and information applicable to Texas?

**Note:** Advanced Training opportunities must meet criteria 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8. It is suggested that the remaining criteria also be a part of the opportunity.

This newsletter would not be possible without the time and talents of our members. This edition was possible as the result of contributions from these members:

Susan Bogle, Coco Brennan, Judy Brupbacher, Ray Laxson, David Reel, Diane Schaule, John Siemssen, Michael O. Varhola, Art Williams and Carol Wilson

We meet on the third Thursday of every month, except December, at  
7 p.m. at the Comal County AgriLife Extension Office:

325 Resource Drive  
New Braunfels, TX 78132-3775  
Phone: 830-620-3440

As of this date: Map at:

<http://www.mapquest.com/mq/5-VMrDGXs>

We welcome anyone interested in the various guest speakers' topics and the Texas Master Naturalist program.

For more information about our chapter visit our new website which can be viewed at:

<http://txmn.org/lindheimer/>

Edie Zaiantz, TMN-LC Communications & Webmaster

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