

Lindheimer Chapter Quarterly Newsletter  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2019  
July-August-September



**LMN Members Featured Photos**

Top: "Caprock Canyon Prairie Dogs" by Holly Emrie  
Left: "Gulf Fritillary" by Joel Dunnington  
Right: "Praying Mantis" by Peggy Haley



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**LMN MEMBERS FEATURED PHOTOS**  
 Left: "Sunset" by Holly Emrie;  
 Right: "Echinacea" by Erin Harrison.



**President's Message**

**Lindheimer Chapter will Participate in "The Big Give SA 2020"**

**What is "The Big Give"?** From The Big Give website <https://www.thebiggivesa.org/>: "The Big Give is South Central Texas' 24-hour online day of online giving fueled by the power of generous donors, creative nonprofits, social media, collaboration, and you! The goal of the Big Give is to support our local nonprofits that are committed to making South Central Texas a great place to live, work, and play. Since 2014, 188,937 donors have given over \$20 million dollars to over 2,000 nonprofits through the Big Give, making it one of the most successful giving days in the country."



- In 2019, The Big Give SA raised **\$4,711,934.94** from **28,104 donors** for **545 non-profit** organizations!
- The next Big Give SA is **March 26, 2020**. As a 501(c)(3), the **Lindheimer Chapter** can participate. Our **goal is \$5,000.00**. We're hoping you'll be interested in supporting our Big Give effort!
- In the coming months, you'll be hearing more about The Big Give. Stay tuned!
- To learn more, check out the website <https://thebiggivesa.org>

# MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS



Approximately 60 members and guests attended the July chapter meeting to hear Stephen Curtis, TPWD Biologist, discuss the fishes of central Texas. It was an excellent lecture filled with little known facts on the fishes that swim in the waters of the Hill Country. Stephen agreed to let us post his Powerpoint slideshow on our webpage – go to <https://txmn.org/lindheimer/chapter-info/educational-resources/> or search the webpage under Chapter Info/Educational Resources. It is an excellent reference for all. Thank you, Stephen!

**July 18, 2019**  
**"Fishes of Central Texas"**  
**Stephen Curtis, TPWD Aquatic Biologist**



**August 15, 2019**  
**"Game of Thrones: The Unique Social Structure & Behavior of the Black Crested Titmouse"**  
**Rebekah Rylander, Researcher**



The Black-crested Titmouse is a common sight in the Texas Hill Country, but much of the information about them has been unknown – until Rebekah Rylander began researching these unique birds and brought to light their social structure. Some of the info that a large group of us learned: Pairs mate for life and return to their nesting sites consistently; use snakeskins as nest liners; have kin dynasties (flocks) composed of family – usually mom, dad & heaviest male offspring; have numerous calls expressing such things as "my turf" "where are you" "intruder" and so on. It was a fascinating look at this complex bird. Many thanks, Rebekeh!



For more information on Rebekah's bird research and studies, go to <https://communityimpact.com/austin/san-marcos-buda-kyle/editors-pick/2017/11/23/black-crested-titmouse-seeks-urban-home-san-marcos/>. Other birds Rebekah has studied can be found at <https://stories.txstate.edu/research/a-bird-in-the-hand.html> and [https://gato-docs.its.txstate.edu/jcr:f773c33e-98f7-4125-9ced-c10d5bfb3e4d/Freeman\\_GCWA\\_AnnualReport.pdf](https://gato-docs.its.txstate.edu/jcr:f773c33e-98f7-4125-9ced-c10d5bfb3e4d/Freeman_GCWA_AnnualReport.pdf)

**T M N A E**  
**Master Naturalist** Lindheimer Chapter **Monthly Meeting**  
**Water Conservation**

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 19, 2019  
 5:45 - 7:45pm

**WHERE:** Tye Preston Memorial Library  
 16311 S Access Rd., Canyon Lake

**WHO:** Troy Luepke  
 Agrilife Extension Agent, Comal County

**WHAT:** "Water Conservation and the Importance  
 It Plays On the Environment"



**Agenda**  
 5:45 Refreshments  
 6:15 Speaker  
 7:15 Business/Awards  
 7:35 Adjourn  
 Public Welcome!

**September 2019 Meeting**  
**"Water Conservation & Its Importance"**  
 Troy Luepke, Comal County AgriLife Extension Agent  
 Lindheimer Chapter Advisor



**Mr. Troy Luepke Speaks at September 2019 LMN Meeting**

Mr. Troy Luepke, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Agent, spoke to 51 Master Naturalists and guests at the September 19, LMN meeting. His subject was "Water Conservation and the Environment" and addressed the very timely issues of Earth-Kind Landscaping and both commercial and domestic means of conserving our water resources and our soil as well. He explained that water and soil work together in a symbiotic relationship to promote and protect the health of our planet and all its living organisms.

Mr. Luepke mentioned desalination as a means of providing much needed fresh water and said that current methods were simply not very effective and very energy inefficient, but there are means by which the public can conserve ample water to provide much greater water resources than are currently in place. He explained that reducing run-off is a very effective tool and can be implemented by drilling holes in outdoor concrete surfaces; also avoiding planting San Augustine grass, which consumes copious amounts of water; also keeping turf in parking lots in circular areas to decrease inefficient concrete usage.

As homeowners and gardeners, we are custodians of much of our planet's water and soil and we can help with their conservation through "Earth-Kind Landscaping". Mr. Luepke explained various methods including terracing our yards and gardens, creating berms and "rain gardens" (gardens sunken, rather than built up to receive the maximum amount of natural run-off), using drip-irrigation, employing home cisterns and rain harvesting and finally, establishing watering priorities particularly in periods of drought.

"Earth-Kind Landscaping" focuses on conserving and protecting natural resources through the use of environmentally friendly practices to create beautiful, easy-care landscapes, as well as vegetable gardens and fruit plantings."

### Rock Stars & Bats!

Article and Photos by Erin Harrison, Rock Stars Class

On a very hot July evening, our Rock Star class went to the Bracken Bat Preserve Cave! We learned all about BCI's purchase of the land to prevent developers from building thousands of homes in that area and to protect a maternal colony of Mexican Freetail bats that's about 20 million in number. It's known as the world's largest bat colony. Between BCI and the Nature Conservancy, they have saved 3,500 acres from development.

The emergence of bats each evening is so large, that it can be seen on the local Doppler radar and will last between three to four hours. Inside the cave, it is 650 feet long; 80 to 124 feet wide at the floor; 117 feet from floor (guano level) to ceiling at the highest point.

When you visit, there are a few different viewing points. There is great seating in front of the cave. A Tour Leader can take you to the opposite side of the cave over-look to have the bats fly over your head. Or you might get to go to The Shaft that's at the back end of the cave. This was an old mine shaft fertilizer. You cannot go into the cave the bats are present. It's filled with just fine breathing it, but we humans



used to excavate guano for because the air is very toxic when ammonia and CO<sub>2</sub>. The bats are cannot.



Because I'm a docent there each week during the time that they're there, I can tell you that it's never the same. It never gets old. It's truly an amazing experience. We have visitors from all over the world that come to this cave to experience this natural wonder. You will also see other wildlife at the cave that like to hunt the bats. On the ground, you'll likely see coachwhip snakes, and maybe a rattle snake. You'll see raccoons, skunks, and opossums. In the sky, you'll see red-tailed hawks and other falcons waiting to snatch them up for dinner. When it gets



dark, there is also a pair of owls who make their presence known.

Please visit [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org) to become a member and reserve your visit to this amazing place. I promise you won't regret it!

# Rock Stars and Selah! Bamberger Ranch Preserve

Article & Photos by Erin Harrison, Rock Stars Class



In September, our Rock Stars class went on our final field trip. It was to Bamberger Ranch Preserve in Blanco County. I feel the Lindheimer Chapter saved the best field trip for last. It's an amazing 5500 acres huge. You can spend days here and not see everything. This place was purchased by J. David Bamberger back in 1969. He was looking for the worst piece of land he could find. He found it, and he completely restored it to its original habitat. There was no water to be found on the land. He had 7 wells drilled and all came up dry. Now, there are lakes that are several acres large. It has its own aquifer in the large hills that surround it. The amount of wildlife that returned to this land is astonishing. They removed quite a bit of the Ashe Juniper trees and planted native grasses to retain water into the ground instead of it all running off. There is so much to learn here about conservation for



many reasons and many viewpoints. The ranch is open for tours and education all year long. The beauty here is simply



phenomenal. Mr. Bamberger himself finished up our field trip with stories of how he attained the ranch and other memories. He's 91 years old, looks 65, and acts 30, and has the spirit of a teenager filled with wonder for a life ahead of him. Mr. Bamberger is truly an inspiration for so many people. May we all aspire to have his energy and dreams of protecting our planet and its natural resources.

They have named the ranch Selah. It was a word in the Christian bible meaning to stop, pause, to look around you, and reflect on everything you see. Mr. Bamberger says it gives him a chance to ask, "what's my duty as a steward of this land?" He believes it's to take care of it and to share it. "And if you don't share what you have, you're going to have a lonely life." You can find more information on their website at [www.bambergerranch.org](http://www.bambergerranch.org)



# The Electronic Lindheimer

Place your cursor on the hyperlink, then press your ctrl button and click to follow the link.

1. Check out Lindheimer Chapter on the Web! <https://txmn.org/lindheimer/>

2. Donate to Lindheimer Chapter painlessly through Amazon Smile!



[https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi\\_se\\_rspo\\_laas\\_aas](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_rspo_laas_aas)

3. Check out Lindheimer Chapter on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/txmn.lindheimer/>



Have you gone to our Facebook Page?

There is a lot of chapter information posted on Facebook – meetings, activities, educational links and also the activities of other groups which may interest you. We highlight chapter activities and articles, and photos taken by our members. If you go to our website, you'll see the link for Facebook on the righthand side of the page. Just click on it and it will take you to our site on Facebook. It's easy!

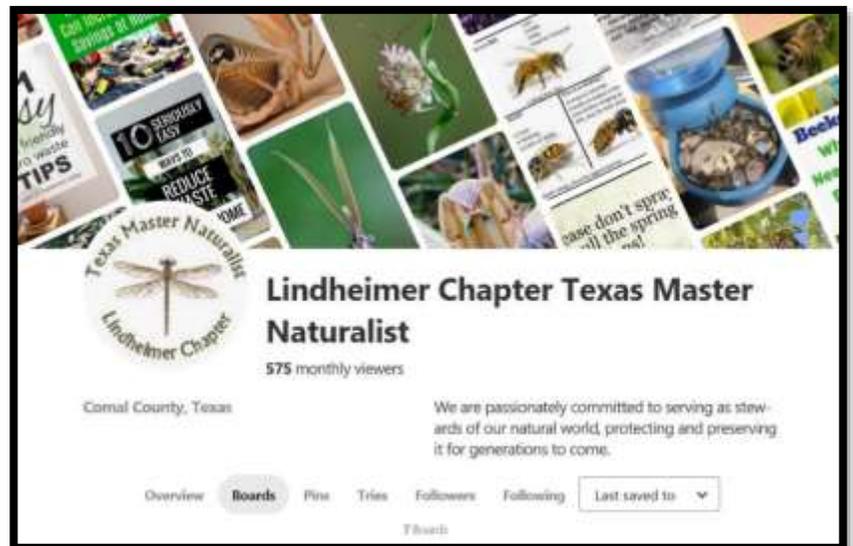
We've added slideshows with music highlighting our members' photos. Take a look! Come see us! "Like" us! And "Follow" us!

4. See us on Pinterest!

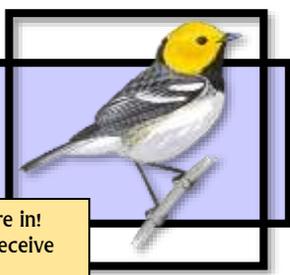
For those of you who like Pinterest, check us out! We went live mid-June, and have 8 boards:

- *Green Living*
- *Of Interest to Naturalists*
- *Bees, Birds, Butterflies & Moths*
- *Bugs & Insects*
- *Nature Photography*
- *Flood & Tornado Preparedness*
- *Invasive Plants, Animals & Insects*
- *Texas Hill Country & Beyond*

<https://www.pinterest.com/FerdinandLindheimer/>



**Recertifications & Volunteer Hour Milestones**  
**Thank You for Volunteering!**  
2019 Recertification Pin - Golden Cheeked Warbler



The 2019 Golden Warbler Pins are in!  
If you've recertified and didn't receive  
your pin, you will in November!



**June 2019**  
**Recertifications**  
Janet Hahn, Beth Jameson,  
Stephen Jones, Jensie Madden

**Volunteer Hour Milestones**  
**250 HOURS:** Gretchen Ferrell  
**1,000 HOURS:** Dottie Green

L to R: Stephen Jones, Gretchen Farrell

**July 2019**  
**Recertifications**  
Julie Crouch, Lori Largen, Elizabeth  
Bowerman, Pat Fletcher, Earl Dittman, Don  
Fletcher, Richard Scarbrock

**Volunteer Hour Milestones**  
**250 HOURS:** Karla Kahn; Ben Pfeiffer  
**15,000 HOURS:** Susan Bogle



L - Ben Pfeiffer; R – Lori Largen



**August 2019**  
**Recertifications**  
Michael Dillingham, Carol Dillingham,  
Glenna Dunnington, Sandy McLemore,  
Debbie Subke, Irene Newhall,  
Marietta Diehl, Nancy Hammack

**Volunteer Hour Milestones**  
**250 HOURS:** Stephen Jones, Debbie Subke

L to R: Nancy Hammack, Debbie Subke, Stephen Jones

# Naturalist.org: Contributing to Citizen Science

“Citizen Science” is the participation of non-scientists in scientific research. As naturalists, many of us already participate in citizen science projects that contribute to the body of scientific knowledge about plants, animals & insects: butterfly surveys, bird counts, plant identification. AND we take pictures – LOTS of pictures! Each picture is an observation and represents an opportunity to increase the scientific knowledge of what, where & when. One of the largest citizen science projects is iNaturalist, a world-wide, on-line database of observations provided by citizen scientists like Master Naturalists.



Photo of Ruby Throated Hummingbird by Darlene Naney Varga.

From [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org) : “From hikers to hunters, birders to beach-combers, the world is filled with naturalists, and many of us record what we find. What if all those observations could be shared online? You might discover someone who finds beautiful wildflowers at your favorite birding spot or learn about the birds you see on the way to work. **If enough people recorded their observations, it would be like a living record of life on Earth that scientists and land managers could use to monitor changes in biodiversity, and that *anyone* could use to learn more about nature.**”

Here are the numbers as of **11/05/2019**. Take a look at Comal County!!

Location	Observations	Species	Identifiers	Observers
World	28,793,848	242,930	103,921	810,139
Texas	2,363,681	19,550	16,233	49,571
<b>Comal County</b>	<b>15,784</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>1,552</b>

How to get started? Go to [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org) and sign up. You can pick a cool user name such as “sea-kangaroo” or use your name “SamSmith”. Then go to “Getting Started” & follow the directions. If you have an iPhone or an Android & download the mobile app, it’s really easy to submit your observations. The information you need to submit is: 1) Photo or sound; 2) date; 3) location; 4) your species identification (you can get help from the Naturalist community on identification). It’s that simple!

Within Naturalist are specialty projects which usually have a much narrower focus – such as “Herps of Texas” or “Texas Monarchs and Milkweeds.” You can join as many projects as you like and add your data to the appropriate projects. Here’s what a sample observation looks like:

Photos/Sounds	Species/Taxon	Date	Place	Date Added	Verified ID
	Western Diamondback Rattlesnake <i>Crotalus atrox</i>	September 11, 2005	Val Verde County, TX, USA (Google, OSM)	October 16, 2016 10:07 AM CDT	3 IDs Research Grade Edit   View »

The data quality assessment in the right column documents the observation’s accuracy. “Research Grade” observations can be used by scientists (and citizen scientists!) for research.

- Upload sounds like bird songs, frog chirps, whale vocalizations and wolf howls
- Accepted are observations of dead animals and roadkill.
- You can search anywhere in the world for any species.
- Want to know how many & where a Western Diamondback has been sighted? Query the database! If you want to be a citizen scientist, **Naturalist** is the place to start!

# 2019 CHAPTER INFORMATION

## 2019 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP



**PRESIDENT** Rich Nielson  
**VICE PRESIDENT** Jim Doyle  
**SECRETARY** Arthur Williams  
**TREASURER** Robin Hagan  
**PAST PRESIDENT** Rich Bradley  
Email: [LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com](mailto:LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com)

### DIRECTORS/COMMITTEES

**Education/New Class** – Mike Hammack & Joe Finneran  
**Membership & Records** – Cheryl Trock  
**Outreach Committee** – Deb Kyrouac & Jane Schnell  
**Projects & Opportunities Committee** - Jeanie Springer

### COMMUNICATIONS

**Director** - Marilyn McFarland  
**Out & About** – Sara Riggs  
**Historian/Archivist** - Recruiting  
**Newsletter** – Carmen Horn, Editor  
**Publicity/FB/Webmaster** – MJ McFarland

### SUBCOMMITTEES

**Outreach**  
**Trunks** – Deb Kyrouac & Jane Schnell  
**Program to Assist Landowners** – Art Williams

### VP

**Community Recognition** – Jim Doyle  
**Hospitality** – Evelyn Nielson

### Rock Stars Class

**President** – Aleta Meyer  
**Reporter/Photographer** – Erin Harrison

### CHAPTER ADVISORS

**Craig Hensley**  
**Nature Tracker Biologist**  
**Texas Parks & Wildlife Department**

### Troy Luepke

**Comal County Extension Agent**  
**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**

### The Lindheimer Quarterly

Published quarterly by the Lindheimer Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™ to communicate, educate & inform chapter members & the Hill Country Community. If you have an article or photo of interest to the chapter, please send email to: [LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com](mailto:LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com). The Quarterly is emailed to all members and posted on the website [www.txmn.org/lindheimer](http://www.txmn.org/lindheimer). Previous issues are available on website.

- Carmen Horn, Editor
- MJ McFarland, Design/Layout
- Erin Harrison, Rock Stars Photographer/Reporter

## Chapter Meetings – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

5:45 Social, 6:15 Speaker

Tye Preston Memorial Library

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**January 17, 2019**

“Spying on Bats” Danielle Cordani

**February 21, 2019**

“Birds of Central Texas: Northern Bobwhite/Rio Grande Turkey” – Craig Hensley

**March 21, 2019**

“Bird Song: Nature’s Sweet Tweets” - Patsy Inglet

**April 18, 2019**

Business Meeting & Photo Show

**May 16, 2019**

“Fireflies” – Ben Pfeiffer

**June 20, 2019**

“Introduction to Karst” – Amy Clarke

**July 18, 2019**

“Central Texas Fishes” – Stephen Curtis

**August 15, 2019**

“Black Crested Titmouse” - Rebekah Rylander

**September 19, 2019**

“Water Conservation” – Troy Luepke

**October 17, 2019**

Rock Stars Graduation

**November 21, 2019**

**To be announced**

**December 12, 2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)**

**Elections & Holiday Dinner**

## LMN Board Meetings

4<sup>th</sup> Monday 5:00pm

AgriLife Building

All are welcome!

## LMN HOSPITALITY

*Many thanks* to Evelyn Nielson, Hospitality, & the LMN members who bring such delicious snacks!

### July

Erin Harrison, Pat Fletcher, Edith Bergquist,  
Jane Schnell, Tom Blagg,  
Midge Baugh, Jennifer Hendren

### August

Rhonda Neel, Jennifer Hendren, Gail Groves,  
Debbie Armijo, Sara Riggs, Joel Dunnington

### September