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### From the Editor:

Our officer elections were held this month.

### Here's our elected officials for 2023:

President: Michael Buley

Vice President: Sue Sommer

Secretary: Rob Kyroutac

Treasurer: Don Epps

Also, the Class of 2022 has completed their training & graduated as Certified Texas Master Naturalists! Congrats!

MJ McFarland, Editor

## Take It or Leave It #2 by Mary B Wenzel



Happy New Year! It seems every time I turn around another year has flown past. And so this year my resolution is simple: Stop 'turning around' and keep my senses focused on each moment of every marvelous experience offered in each new day. We master naturalists seem to be more aware of opportunities and mother nature's daily miracles than most folks. The learning, observation and discovery process never ends. It

only encourages us to continue the journey as naturalists. So ready or not here we go...let's see where this year leads us.

Right now at Almosta Ranch we've been busy limbing up oaks, thinning out weak or dead trees to open up the canopy and bring more light into selected areas. And yes, we paint oak wounds and cuts because of the oak wilt issues around here. So lots of heavy work is going on this time of year before the Golden Cheek Warbler scouts arrive and various other bird species begin their spring rituals here in the Texas hill country. Whatever heavy tree work doesn't get done by late February gets put on hold until the following year around here. That's the deal. Period. So it's a calculated process around here and mostly done by hand (with the help of a tractor when needed) and lots of grunts and groans...:) Last year Almosta Ranch had the pleasure of hosting two nesting pairs of Golden Cheeks and so we're hoping they decide to return. I guess we'll see...

In the meantime there's plenty of gardening chores to do in the butterfly garden which includes studying the structure of the garden during the winter and deciding what plants need to be divided and or moved elsewhere. Believe me when I tell you native plants are the gift that keep on giving...and in February it'll be time to begin stratifying seeds from last year's native plant seed offerings-which I collected and stored last fall.

How to stratify seeds? I take a double layer of paper towels and place several seeds on half of the paper towel; fold the other half of the paper towel on top and then dampen the paper towels with water (I usually use a spray bottle with water); roll it up and place in a gallon size zip lock plastic bag; Zip it closed and place into the refrigerator. Keep moistened but not soaking wet. In about a week you'll have sprouted seeds. From that point, they're ready to carefully plant into small containers.

In the meantime in the butterfly garden every time I get a chance to dig up a few smaller 'wild' understory plants that happen to have decided to go rogue on me...I'll pot them up for root recovery and find a place



Time to get working in your yard! Photo by Mary Wenzel.

elsewhere for them later or share them with folks. I've learned it's a lot easier to dig up small understory plants than put that chore off...especially since many of our native plants develop tap roots. (Atten: Michael Buley...I took your advice about how to prep and excavate the large redbud tree. It took 2 days to carefully cut through the rootball and then we let it rest a few days before we moved and transplanted the tree. It had developed a tap root so we'll see if the tree survives. Miracles do happen. Thank you!)

Since it's cool weather here in Central Texas, it's definitely much more enjoyable doing all the hard labor so Larry and I take advantage of this time of year. So it's a busy time here at Almosta Ranch. Wildflower seeds I planted in the small open field across from the butterfly garden a few months ago have sprouted and so we look forward to see what native flowers decide to bloom. After MANY tries over the years this is a first successful planting here at Almosta. But most likely it's because I decided to plant closer to a water source in a more accessible location. We'll see how that experiment goes.

(Atten: Susan Bogle...it looks like your advice about using bluebonnet plugs might work much better than broadcasting seed. I've used both now and so we'll see how each survives. It makes sense that bluebonnet plugs have developed mycorrhizal fungi within their root systems and soil. Since Almosta Ranch soils were most likely depleted because the previous owner scalped the topsoil layer several times over the years (to use for a landscaping business) that explain some of the challenges we've experienced over the years. Thank you!)

Before I close I'll list a few more native plants we've had great success with in the Almosta Butterfly garden for those of you who might be interested trying in your garden:

Understory trees: Goldenball Leadtree (*Leucaena retusa*)  
Possumhaw Holly (*Illex decidua*)  
Anacacho Orchid Tree (*Bauhinia lunarioides*)

Shrubs: Elbow bush (*Forestiera pubescens*)  
Flame acanthus (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus*)  
Spicebush (Lauraceae *Lindera benzoin*)

Flowers: Lyreleaf sage (*Salvia lyrata*)  
Cedar sage (*Salvia roemeriana*)  
Wild Red Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*)

Groundcover: Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*)  
Woolly stemodia (*Stemodia lanata*)  
Silver Ponyfoot (*Dichondra argentea*)

And don't forget native grasses in the butterfly garden:  
Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)  
Lindheimer Muhly (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*)  
Bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*)

And a couple very good ol' dependable reference books I use frequently:  
*"Butterfly Gardening for Texas"*  
by Geyata Ajilvsgi  
*"Native Texas Plant Landscaping By Region"*  
By Sally Wasowski & Andy Wasowski



## 2023 Chapter Dues

Members at the October Chapter Meeting approved **annual membership dues of \$25.00** per member commencing in 2023. We've been needing a consistent source of income in order to support and expand the work we do.

**Payment is due by December 31, 2022.** If payment is not received by January 31, 2023, you will be moved to inactive status in the VMS. If dues pose a hardship, please notify President, Treasurer or Membership Director about assistance.

Make checks payable to "Texas Master Naturalist Lindheimer Chapter" and mail it to the Treasurer at:

**LMN Chapter Treasurer Don Epps**  
**250 Northridge Dr**  
**New Braunfels, TX 78132**

Payment may also be made at chapter meetings via check or cash.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our President, Treasurer, or Membership Director.

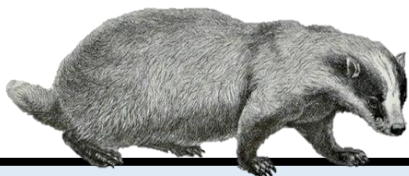
Thank you for volunteering with LMN!

## Opportunity Codes for Documenting Your Hours in VMS

Do you wonder sometimes how to enter your hours into the VMS? Here's a guide! More info on the VMS here: [Report Your Hours \(txmn.org\)](http://txmn.org) Also, be on the lookout for Membership Chair Brian Trock's emails which explain the codes!

Code	Opportunity	Description	Examples
AT	Advanced Training	Advanced Training that you attend as a participant	*Chapter/NPSOT/Lunch & Learn meetings *Project WILD (Instructor/facilitator trng) *Cibolo NC/LB/JWC/TMN/etc.
CB	Chapter & Program Business	Activities related to managing and running a Master Naturalist Chapter and its committees	*Board of Directors/Officers/Committee Chairs *Newsletter/website management *Management of chapter records *Hours or chapter reporting *Other chapter business
FR	Field Research (Including Surveys)	Planning, leading or participating in data collection and/or analysis of natural resources where the results are intended to further scientific knowledge	*CoCoRaHS *Banding and tagging *Project Feeder Watch, MLMP, water testing, etc.
NPA	Nature/Public Access	Field-based activities that improve and manage the the public's access to natural areas or resources. Creating and/or maintaining nature trails, wildscapes, and/or interpretive areas	Developing new or improving existing: *Hiking trails *Gardens (interpretive, butterfly, habitacles, etc.) *Wildlife viewing blinds *Wildscapes
OT	Other	Animal Rescue Only	*Wild animal rescue
PO	Public Outreach (Indirect)	Leading, organizing, or staffing an educational activity where participants come and go and are able to inquire on a variety of topics	*Discovery Center *Trout Unlimited *Festivals *Traveling Trunks
RM	Natural Resource Management	Activities that improve the health of a natural area or resource. Natural resource management, restoration, rescue, and rehabilitation	*Invasive species or trash removal *Plant rescue *Restoring or improving natural habitat *Wildlife houses, towers, chimneys
TG	Technical Guidance	Any work that provides written management recommendations to land owners and/or land managers	*Writing ecosystem management plans *Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP) *City/Community/Regional governments
TR	Training and Educating Others (Direct)	Leading, organizing, instructing, or staffing an educational activity where participants have a planned learning objective and generally stay for the full event (i.e. a planned start and end time)	*Workshops *Presentations *Webinars *Chapter MN trainees/interns

# Chapter Information Page



## 2022 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

### OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Rich Nielson
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Sue Sommer
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Rob Kyrouac
<b>TREASURER</b>	Don Epps

### COMMITTEES

#### Standing Committees

Education – Joe Finneran, Ellen Petray, Judy Henfey  
 Membership & Records – Brian Trock, Cheryl Trock (VMS)  
 Outreach – Debbie Kyrouac  
 Projects & Opportunities - Jeanie Springer

#### Subcommittees

Trunks – Deb Kyrouac  
 Program to Assist Landowners – Elizabeth Olszewski  
 Community Recognition (VP) – Sue Sommer  
 Hospitality (VP) – Sue Sommer  
 New Class – President-Caroline Broderick  
 Photographer-Lesley Frowick

### COMMUNICATIONS

Director – MJ McFarland  
 Out & About – Sara Riggs

### CHAPTER ADVISORS

Craig Hensley, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Wildlife Tracker  
 Jason Mangold, AgriLife

### The Lindheimer Quarterly Newsletter MJ McFarland – Editor

Newsletter published quarterly by the Lindheimer Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™ to communicate, educate & inform chapter members & the Hill Country Community. Current and previous issues of The Quarterly are posted on the website [www.txmn.org/lindheimer](http://www.txmn.org/lindheimer).

### How to CONTACT

Email: [LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com](mailto:LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com)

Website: <https://txmn.org/lindheimer>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/txmn.lindheimer/>

Snail Mail: Lindheimer Chapter  
 c/o Comal County AgriLife  
 325 Resource Dr.  
 New Braunfels, TX 78132



## 2022 MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS

January 24 “Madrone Trail” with Susan Bogle  
 February 17 “Don’t Mess w/Texas Bees”  
 with Charlie Agar  
 March 17 “Native Seeds” with George Cates  
 April 21 “Heritage Museum” with Janice Epps  
 May 19 Iliana Peña, Texas Wildlife Association  
 June 15 The Composition of Soil with Darla Reid  
 July 21 Dinosaurs of Texas with Arthur Williams  
 August 18 “Trees of Texas” with Doug Dalglish  
 September 15 Dinosaurs of Texas w/Arthur Williams  
 October 20 “Headwaters” w/Lauren Strack  
 November 17 “Honey Creek Cave” w/Michael Cicherski  
 December: Date TBA

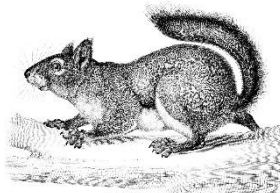
### 2022 Board of Directors Meetings Every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 5:00 PM Meetings are via WEBEX All members welcome

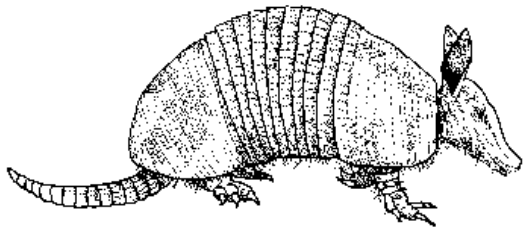


- January 24 ● February 28 ● March 28 ● April 25
- May 23 ● June 27 ● July 25 ● August 22
- September 26 ● October 24 ● November 28
- December 26

#### Board Minutes available at:

<https://txmn.org/lindheimer/chapter-info/lmn-board-members/lmn-board-minutes-archive/>





# 2022 Class: Nine Banded Armadillos



Congratulations, Armadillos!  
It's Graduation!



# LMN Chapter Recertifications and Milestone Awards

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT!  
THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



	Recertifications	Milestone Awards
January 2022	Susan Bogle, Judy Henfrey, Brian Trock Marilyn McFarland, Sara Riggs Rhonda Neel, Lois Ricci, Darlene Varga	250 Hours: MV Poffenberger, Mike Roberts, Karen Matson, Brenda Stoeck
February 2022	Ellen Anderson, Edith Bergquist, Joe Finneran, Jim Jameson, Ellen Petray, Patricia Porterfield, Jeanie Springer, Cheryl Trock	250 Hours: Judy Henfrey, Lisa Smith 1,000 Hours: Don Epps, Nancy Gray
March 2022	Don Bergquist, Ron Butts, John Davis, Jim Doyle, Erin Harrison, Deb Kyrouac, Valerie Lefebvre, Rich Nielson, Cathy Oberkamp, MV Poffenberger, Susan Sommer, Mary Williams	250 Hours: Aleta Meyer, Haley Faver, Mary Williams 500 Hours: Marilyn Garrison, Cathy Oberkamp 1,000 Hours: Beth Jameson, Rhonda Neel
April 2022	Don Epps, Haley Faver, Heidi Forgione, Lynn Jones, Rob Kyrouac, Aleta Meyer, Jane Miller, Lisa Smith	250 Hours: Toni Wayne, Ellen Petray, Patricia Porterfield, Margaret Olivier 1,000 Hours: Jim Doyle
May 2022	Heidi Case, Jane Finneran, Pat Fletcher, Gail Groves, Sarah Mato, Joni McGhee, Dana Murray, Evelyn Nielson, Mike Roberts, Brenda Stoeck, Teresa Turko, Linda Valdez	250 Hours: Steve Verschoyle 500 Hours: Susan Sommer
June 2022	John Corkill, Don Fletcher, Laird Ingham, Scott Ofsdahl, Robert Trott	250 Hours: John Corkill, Scott Ofsdahl
July 2022	Rich Bradley, Julie Crouch, Gretchen Ferrell, Harry Ferrell, Lori Largen, Debbie Subke	250 Hours: Dave Skasik
August 2022	Lynn Boyd, Vanessa Brown, Kathy Ofsdahl, Jack Olivier	250 Hours: Michael Buley
September 2022	Sandra Carson, Joel Dunnington, Henry Hahn, Beth Jameson, Margret Olivier, Dave Skasik, Melissa Skasik, Teresa St. John, Steve Verschoyle, Arthur Williams	250 Hours: Heidi Case 500 Hours: Heidi Forgione
October 2022	Nancy Gray, Bob Gray, Christy Martinez, Toni Wayn	500 Hours: Rob Kyrouac
November 2022	Philip Brown, Michael Buley, Pat Carnes, Craig Dillion, Shari Ferguson, Kathy Lamon, Steve Mato, Denise Miner-Williams, Miguelita Scanio, Ron Stoeck, Eric Weissgarber	250 Hours: Eric Weissgarber 500 Hours: Christy Martinez, MV Poffenberger 1,000 Hours: Joe Finneran 5,000 Hours: Darlene Varga
December 2022	Laura Austin, Mary Barr-Gilbert, Elizabeth Bowerman, Salty Brady, Cynthia DeWitt, Sherri Green, Janet Hahn, Karen Kimbell, Tanya Marroquin, Karen Matson, Holly McCoy, Sandy McLemore, Marie Miller, Valorie Robertson, Linda Bolano, Caroline Broderick, Mike Poffenberger	250 Hours: Miguelita Scanio, Ron Stoeck 500 Hours: Judy Henfrey 1,000 Hours: Craig Dillion 4,000 Hours: Don Bergquist

2023 Certification Pin "Texas Ecoregions"



## LMN MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Cheryl Trock

Membership: 225 (194 active, 30 in-training, 1 advisor)

Training Class #25, Gray Foxes: 30

Membership Dues: 175 listed paid in VMS (78%) for 2023, 49 unpaid, final notice sent

### VMS December:

110 members submitted hours:

1,217 vh -- 50 ath -- 60 initial training

594 approved entries

### VMS 2022:

167 members submitted hours:

19,481 VH -- 2,423 ATH -- 886 initial training

9,814 approved entries

LMN Lifetime:

232,047 VH -- 29,004 ATH -- (470 members)

January Chapter Meeting (42 TPML) (44 ZOOM): 86 attended

### December Service Pins:

Recertifications: (17) (year total: 105, for 51% of membership)

250 Hours: 2 (2022: 22)

500 Hours: 1 (2022: 8)

1,000 Hours: 1 (2022: 7)

4,000 Hours: 1 (2022: 1)

5,000 Hours: 1 (2022: 1)

Cheryl Trock, Membership Director, January 23, 2023



# Contributing to Community/Citizen Science: iNaturalist.org



Photo of gray fox by Mike Poffenberger

“Community Science” (formerly “Citizen” Science) is the participation of non-scientists in scientific research. As naturalists, many of us already participate in community 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 community science projects is iNaturalist, a world-wide, on-line database of observations provided by community scientists like Master Naturalists.

“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.” How to get started? Go to [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org) and sign up!

Here are the iNaturalist numbers as of **January 26, 2023**. Take a look at Comal County!!!

Location	Observations	Species	Observers
World	125,629,340	412,299	2,505,862
Texas	7,220,197	25,931	136,011
<b>Comal County</b>	<b>102,572</b>	<b>4,586</b>	<b>4,642</b>



## The Electronic Lindheimer

Website: [www://txmn.org/lindheimer/](http://www://txmn.org/lindheimer/)

Facebook: [www://facebook.com/txmn.lindheimer](http://www://facebook.com/txmn.lindheimer)

Ops & Info: Weekly email with news, announcements, and AT/VH opportunities sent to your email every Sunday.