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## PAL (Program to Assist Landowners)

### BIANNUAL OVERVIEW

By PAL Director

Elisabeth Olszewski

It is typical of the Program to Assist Landowners (PAL) to see a slow start of the year when yards are still dormant from freezing temperatures.

However, 2024 has seen a strong spring season for PAL. With several new volunteers added to the program in the summer of 2023, we've been able to tackle the flush of spring requests much more efficiently this year. The Program to Assist Landowners would like to thank **Arthur Williams, Susan Bogle, Christy Martinez, and Caroline Broderick** for being superb ambassadors of our chapter through their time

effort as PAL volunteers.

We have completed a total of 9 PAL visits this year, with several more already on the calendar. Each visit takes around 1-2 hours and involves a volunteer coming to a landowner's property with a brief idea of land initiatives. The property is toured, surveyed, and discussed. Typical topics of discussion include native plant ID, invasive species control, erosion control, and native wildlife habitat building which all of our volunteers have received additional training on top of the TXMN initial training class.

#### Highlights of the season:

- Christy Martinez met one clever landowner who utilized bags of leaves as DIY wattles on a steep slope!
- Volunteers have also been able to get some good looks at the spread and damage of hypoxylon cankers. Susan Bogel met a landowner who received an idea to convert stumped trees into yard art!
- Many landowners are looking into native pollinator plants to incorporate into their gardens. One landowner actively foraged for the edible prickly pear, agarita, and mesquite on their property.
- Elisabeth Olszewski toured a property with an impressive motte of eve's necklaces (*Styohnolobium affine*), formally unidentified by the landowner.
- Several new class members have submitted requests to the program-- an excellent reminder that PAL is not limited to non-naturalist!

PAL looks forward to an increase in the program's publicity over the next year. Initiatives are in place to spread the word to local HOA's, have representatives at tabling events, and get the word out to local Comal County residents! Please contact [lindheimerpal@gmail.com](mailto:lindheimerpal@gmail.com) if you have an opportunity for PAL to get its name out. PAL Page on website: [Program to Assist Landowners \(txmn.org\)](http://Program to Assist Landowners (txmn.org))



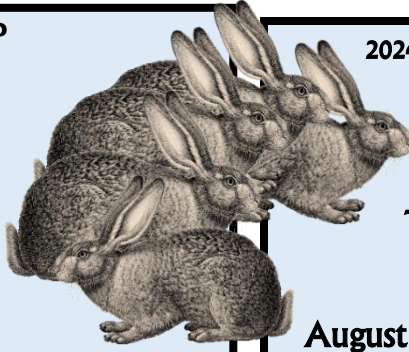
# Chapter Information Page



## 2024 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

### OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Sue Sommer
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Laurie Dugan
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Rob Kyrouac
<b>TREASURER</b>	Don Epps



## 2024 MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held in-person every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at Tye Preston Memorial Library  
5:45 pm – 7:30pm

August & November will be via Zoom only.

Sign-up to bring snacks:

[Lindheimer Master Naturalists: Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting Snacks \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

### COMMITTEES

#### Standing Committees

Education – Caroline Broderick, Director  
Membership & Records – Cheryl Trock, Brian Trock (VMS)  
Outreach – Debbie Kyrouac  
Projects & Opportunities - Jeanie Springer

#### Subcommittees

Trunks – Deb Kyrouac  
Program to Assist Landowners (PAL) – Elisabeth Olszewski  
Community Recognition – VP  
Hospitality – VP  
New Class – President – Karla Roch  
Photographer – Katie Johnson



### COMMUNICATIONS

Director – MJ McFarland (Message Board)  
Out & About Calendar – 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



2024 Board of Directors Meetings  
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 5:00 PM  
Meetings are via ZOOM  
All members welcome

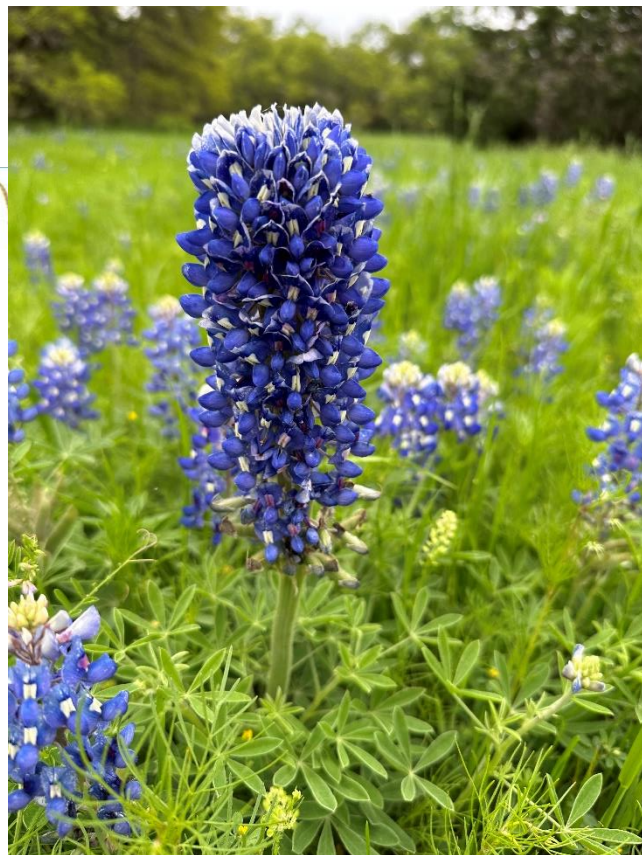
Find the link under Members (password protected) [Members \(txmn.org\)](http://Members.txmn.org)

Board Minutes available at:

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



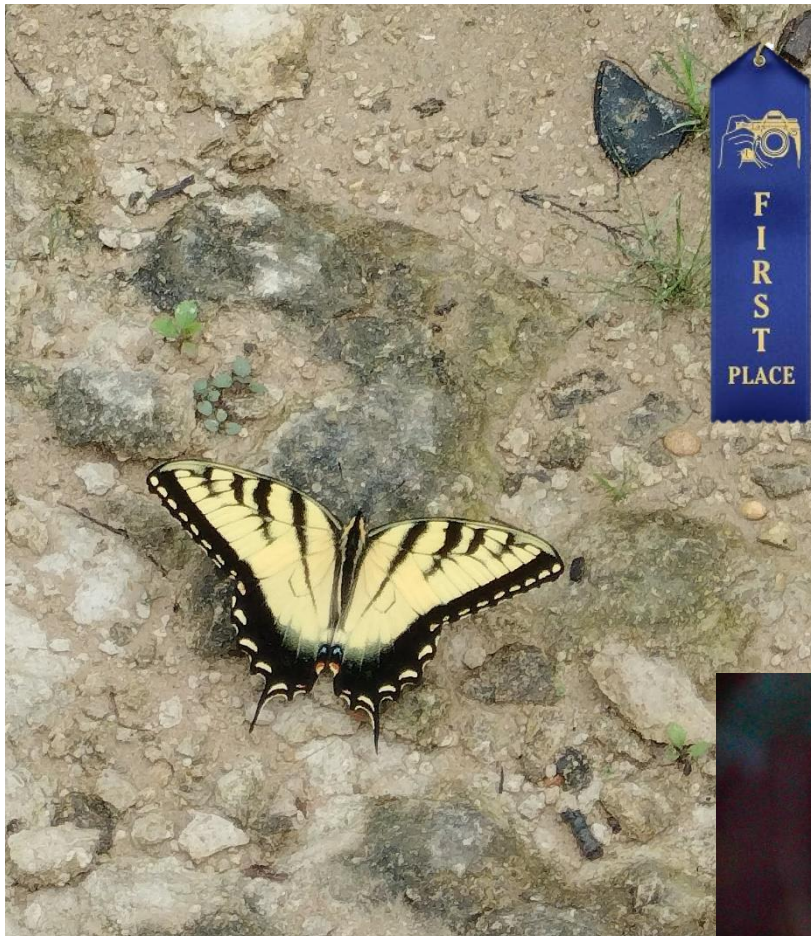
# Communications Photo Awards - April 2024



Ribbons are awarded monthly to the members whose photos receive the most "views" on our FaceBook page. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons will be presented at the monthly meetings. All you have to do is submit your photos to [LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com](mailto:LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com).

1<sup>st</sup> Place Trish Coons – Swallowtail Cat  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Caroline Broderick – Bluebonnet  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Lorán Wilson – White bluebonnet

# Communications Photo Awards - May 2024



1<sup>st</sup> Brian Trock - Butterflies  
2<sup>nd</sup> Laurie Dugan - Warbler  
3<sup>rd</sup> Teresa Turko - Monarch Cat



# Communications Photo Awards - June 2024



*June FB Photo Winners*  
1<sup>st</sup> Edith Bergquist - Red-eyed devil  
2<sup>nd</sup> Karla Roch - Texas Yellow Star  
3<sup>rd</sup> Teresa Turko - Red-eyed devil



# 2024 Monthly Social Media & Website Statistics

2024 Monthly Social Media/Website Statistics											Web	Web
Facebook											2,024	2023
Month	#Posts	Total Reach	Page Likes	Page Follows	Most Popular Photo #1	Reach	Most Popular Photo #2	Reach	Most Popular Photo #3	Reach		
January	20	4,766	674	820	Orientation - Sommer	612	Grey Fox B. Trock	556	Bats Flyer - Admin	512	3,357	3,806
February	16	3,961	677	826	V. Flycatcher Bergquist,E.	738	Guad River DeMarco	543	Skimmer Varga	493	2,385	3,070
March	21	5,077	695	847	Class at HAC Johnson, K.	738	Bluebonnet Coons	602	Class at HAC Johnson, K.	544	4,034	3,067
April	28	8,102	694	850	Caterpillar Coons	630	Bluebonnet Broderick	599	Whitebonnet Wilson, L.	507	3,949	2,346
May	23	5,531	698	857	Butterflies Trock	787	Warbler Dugan	741	Monarch Cat Turko	732	3,752	1,894
June	17	6,409	696	857	Red-eyed devil Bergquist	2517	Yellow Star Roche	617	Red-eyed devil - Turko	198	3,432	2,342
July												1,795
August												1,453
September												1,575
October												1,808
November												1,696
December												1,484
<b>Total YTD</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>33,846</b>									<b>20,909</b>	<b>26,336</b>

## 2024 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, 2023.** 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!

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# How to Stay Safe in the Heat – Texas Parks & Wildlife

From Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for Park Visitors: Last year, 48 state parks reported 156 heat-related illnesses in humans and pets, but this year could well eclipse that. State parks have already fielded 51 heat-related incidents since Jan. 1, compared to 32 reported by this time last year. Here are the top seven heat hacks recommended for park visitors:

**Hydrate**– It's important to drink at least 16 ounces of water every hour to prevent dehydration. Don't forget to bring enough for your four-legged family members too.

**Block the Rays**– Apply a generous amount of sunscreen or sunblock before heading outdoors. Be sure to reapply every couple of hours, and after swimming or sweating.

**Dress Smart**– Wear light, loose-fitting, breathable clothing; a hat, correct shoes, sunscreen and wet bandanas to keep you cool while in the sun. For pets, protect paws against blistering by hitting the trails during cooler times of the day when the ground isn't hot or by putting booties on pets to help shield paws from the hot ground. Touch the pavement or ground with the back of your hand. If you cannot hold it there for five seconds, the surface is too hot for your dog's paws.

**Stay Salty**– Food helps keep up energy and replace salt lost from sweating. Eating snacks such as jerky, granola, trail mix, tuna and dried fruit is a fantastic way to nourish your body while on the trails.

**Buddy System**– Two brains are better than one. It's beneficial to have someone with you in hot conditions so you can look after each other on the trail. With high temperatures hitting Texas, heat-related illnesses are common and having a friend around to help recognize the early symptoms can save you from getting sick.

**Plan Ahead**– Study the map and have it with you. Avoid relying on your phone for maps since service may be unavailable in back-country areas. Average hikers move at two miles per hour, so allow yourself plenty of time to avoid hiking in the heat of the day. Make sure to rest in a cool or shaded area to recover from the heat if necessary. It is also a good idea to let someone know your plan before you hit the trails and what time you should be back. That way, if you become lost, people know where to look.

**Pup-Safety**– Dogs are as susceptible to heat as their humans are, so it is good practice to ensure that you bring enough water and snacks for four-legged hiking buddies to last the entirety of the trip.

*Additionally*, visitors should heed notices posted at trailheads about site-specific conditions before setting out for the day. The park websites and staff are also a valuable resource for folks wanting to know about trail and forecasted conditions before starting their walk. Park alerts on the website are updated regularly and are a valuable resource for visitors prior to arrival at the park. For more information about heat safety, visit the TPWD website. [Texas Parks & Wildlife](#)

[Department](#)





## 2024 Class: The Texas Yellow Stars

Twenty-three members of the community have committed to the year-long training to become Certified Texas Master Naturalists!



2024 Class Schedule - Lindheimer Master Naturalist

Date / Time	Activity	Instructors	Location	Book Units
13 <sup>th</sup> January 2-5pm	Orientation	New class director & class coordinators, board members	AgriLife Center	Intro to TMN & unit 3
16 <sup>th</sup> January 6-9pm	Geology & Soil	Joe Finneran (LMN)	AgriLife Center	Unit 7
6 <sup>th</sup> February 6-9pm	Weather & Climate	Paul Yura (NOAA)	AgriLife Center	Unit 8
5 <sup>th</sup> March 6-9pm	Archeology	D. Clark Wernecke	AgriLife Center	Units 2 & 22
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Canyon Gorge Field Trip	GBRA / GPS	Canyon Lake	Unit 7
2 <sup>nd</sup> April 6-9pm	Ecology & Ecosystems	John Herron (ret TPWD & TNC)	AgriLife Center	Units 4, 5 & 6
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Honey Creek Natural Area Field Trip	Nancy Gray (Friends of HC)	Guadalupe River State Park	Units 4, 5 & 6
7 <sup>th</sup> May 6-9pm	Ornithology	Tom & Patsy Inglet (AAMN & Audubon)	AgriLife Center	Unit 12
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Birding at Crescent Bend	Tom & Patsy Inglet (AAMN & Audubon)	Schertz	Unit 12
4 <sup>th</sup> June 6-9pm	Botany & Taxonomy	Debbie Kyrouac (LMN & NPSOT)	AgriLife Center	Units 10 & 11
2 <sup>nd</sup> July 6-9pm	Entomology	Craig Hensley (TPWD)	AgriLife Center	Unit 13
6 <sup>th</sup> August 6-9pm	Mammalogy	Dr Pamela Owen (UT Austin)	AgriLife Center	Unit 16
11 <sup>th</sup> August	Bracken Bat Flight Field Trip	Fran Hutchins (BCI) & Edith/Don Bergquist (LMN)	Garden Ridge	Unit 16
3 <sup>rd</sup> September 6-9pm	Native Grassland Ecology & Restoration	Doug Dalglish (LMN)	AgriLife Center	Units 17 & 20
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Bamberger Ranch Field Trip	April Sansom (Selah)	Johnson City	Units 17 & 20
1 <sup>st</sup> October 6-9pm	Herpetology	Craig Hensley (TPWD)	AgriLife Center	Unit 15
5 <sup>th</sup> October	The Meadows Center Field Trip	TSU Education Center	San Marcos	Units 9, 17, 18 & 19
5 <sup>th</sup> November 6-9pm	Water Resources	Lauren Willis (GBRA)	AgriLife Center	Unit 9
3 <sup>rd</sup> December 6-9pm	Urban systems & xeriscaping	Debbie Kyrouac (LMN & NPSOT)	AgriLife Center	Unit 21
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Graduation at December Chapter Meeting			



## Chapter Recertifications and Milestone Awards

2024 Recertification Pin – Western Diamondback Rattlesnake

	Recertifications	Milestone Awards
<b>January 2024</b>	Susan Bogle, Trish Coons, Jim Jameson, Lois Ricci, Jeanie Springer, Brian Trock, Cheryl Trock, Darlene Varga	<b>500 HOURS:</b> Trish Coons
<b>February 2024</b>	Ellen Anderson, Don Bergquist, Edith Bergquist, Caroline Broderick, Beth Jameson, Valerie Lefebvre, Ron Lucik, Marilyn McFarland, Ellen Petray, Tom Petray, Mike Poffenberger	<b>250 HOURS:</b> Tom Petray <b>500 HOURS:</b> Caroline Broderick <b>1,000 HOURS:</b> Ellen Petray <b>2,500 HOURS:</b> Jeanie Springer <b>4,000 HOURS:</b> Jim Jameson
<b>March 2024</b>	Wendy Hill, Teresa Turko, Thomas Jones, Rhonda Neel, Sara Riggs, Debbie Kyrouac	<b>500 HOURS:</b> Lisa Smith
<b>April 2024</b>	Linda Bolano, Elizabeth Bowerman, Ron Butts, Heidi Case, Laurie Dugan, Joe Finneran, Gail Groves, Judy Henfey, Marcia Kelly, Hazel McCarthy, MV Poffenberger, Patricia Potterfield	<b>500 HOURS:</b> Cynthia DeWitt <b>4,000 HOURS:</b> Rich Nielson <b>5,000 HOURS:</b> Edith Bergquist
<b>May 2024</b>	Susan Sommer, Don Epps, Mike Roberts, Harry Ferrell, Rob Kyrouac, Jane Miller, Christy Martinez, Jane Finneran, Lisa Smith, Teresa St. John, Tom Oldham, Aleta Meyer, Mary Barr-Gilbert, Toni Wayne	<b>500 HOURS:</b> Ron Lucik, Heidi Case <b>1,000 HOURS:</b> Mike Poffenberger
<b>June 2024</b>	Lynn Boyd, Jim Doyle, Don Fletcher, Anne-Marie Kimbell, Evelyn Nielson, Rich Nielson, Scott Ofsdahl	<b>250 Hours:</b> Marcia Kelly, Joni McGhee

**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT!**  
**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

## 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: [txmn.org/lindheimer/report-your-hours/](http://txmn.org/lindheimer/report-your-hours/)  
Also, be on the lookout for Membership Chair Brian Trock's emails which explain the codes!

Code	Opportunity	Description	Examples
AT	<b>Advanced Training</b>	Advanced Training that you attend as a participant	*Chapter/NPSOT/Lunch & Learn meetings *Project WILD (Instructor/facilitator trng) *Cibolo NC/LBJWC/TMN/etc.
CB	<b>Chapter &amp; Program Business</b>	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	<b>Field Research (Including Surveys)</b>	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	<b>Nature/Public Access</b>	Field-based activities that improve and manage 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, habitscapes, etc.) *Wildlife viewing blinds *Wildscapes
OT	<b>Other</b>	Animal Rescue Only	*Wild animal rescue
PO	<b>Public Outreach (Indirect)</b>	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	<b>Natural Resource Management</b>	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	<b>Technical Guidance</b>	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	<b>Training and Educating Others (Direct)</b>	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

# Monthly Chapter Meetings

T E X A S



Master Naturalist

Lindheimer Chapter  
Texas Master Naturalist Program



Texas Master Naturalist  
Lindheimer Chapter

**Monthly Chapter Meeting**

**When:** April 18, 2024 at 5:45pm  
**What:** "Hog Wild"  
**Who:** Arthur Williams  
**Where:** Tye Preston Memorial Library




Texas is the feral hog capital of the world. In fact, Texas has so many feral hogs, it's been sharing them with other states so now about 38 states have a hog problem. But what about the rest of the world?

Come to the April members' meeting and learn about the state of hogs around the globe. Enjoy the presentation while being part of the solution by chowing down on a ragout of wild boar.




Arthur Williams is well known to the communities and organizations of Comal County for his tireless volunteer work to preserve and protect the Texas Hill Country.

T E X A S



Master Naturalist

Lindheimer Chapter  
Texas Master Naturalist Program




Texas Master Naturalist  
Lindheimer Chapter


**Monthly Chapter Meeting**

**When:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 5:45pm  
**What:** "Groundwater Management in Texas"  
**Who:** Ryan Spencer, Executive Director  
**Where:** Tye Preston Memorial Library

Ryan Spencer, Executive Director of Comal County Conservation Alliance, will be joining us in May to discuss groundwater management in Texas.

Ryan graduated from Texas State University – San Marcos in December 2009 where he received his BS in Water Studies with a minor in Geology. He continued his education at Texas State University and in December of 2013 graduated with a Masters of Applied Geography in Geographic Information Systems.






COMAL COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
ALLIANCE


CCCA aims to conserve and protect wildlife, land and water in Comal County. CCCA goals include preserving open spaces, helping landowners protect their family land legacies, getting community support for land preservation funding, lessening flooding through the preservation of critical watershed areas and growing recreational opportunities by keeping natural areas.

T E X A S



Master Naturalist

Lindheimer Chapter  
Texas Master Naturalist Program




Texas Master Naturalist  
Lindheimer Chapter

**Monthly Chapter Meeting**


**When:** Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 5:45pm  
**What:** "Overview of the Texas Wildlife Association with an Emphasis on Youth Education Programs"  
**Who:** Amber Brown, Conservation Education Specialist, TWA  
**Where:** Texas Wildlife Association  
 6644 FM 1102, New Braunfels, TX

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN VENUE!!!**


Texas Wildlife Association  
6644 FM 1102, New Braunfels, TX




As mentioned at the monthly meeting, our usual beautiful Tye Preston Library meeting space is unavailable next month. Thanks to VP Laurie Dugan, who has secured the new Texas Wildlife Association's conference room in New Braunfels. Since it's Summer Solstice, we will have plenty of daylight to drive home in. It's about a 20-minute drive from Tye Preston, but of course your mileage may vary. If anyone wants to share a ride, send me an email: [Sue@ccmmit.com](mailto:Sue@ccmmit.com) or a text at 262-496-4433. (We will be back to our regularly scheduled library in July).



Amber Brown




T E X A S




Master Naturalist

Lindheimer Chapter  
Texas Master Naturalist Program




Texas Master Naturalist  
Lindheimer Chapter


**Monthly Chapter Meeting**

**When:** Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 5:45pm  
**What:** Recycle Right Every Day, Always Working for a Sustainable Tomorrow  
**Who:** Sherrell Cordas, Communications & Public Affairs  
 Waste Management   
**Where:** Tye Preston Memorial Library (no online meeting)

Join us for a presentation by Sherrell Cordas which will focus on recycling and on WM's three sustainability ambitions. Sherrell will explain the basics of recycling and how the recycling process works at a recycling center, as well as describe what WM is doing in recycling, renewable energy and community.



About Sherrell: She's been with WM for 12 years. During that time, she has educated thousands of people of all ages about recycling and sustainability and served as a project lead for multiple wildlife habitat sites at WM facilities in south and central Texas. She is originally from Houston, hold a master's degree in strategic communications from Texas Tech University, and lives in Canyon Lake with her husband Andy & miniature schnauzer Brody.



## Contributing to Citizen Science: iNaturalist.org



Photo of gray fox by Mike Poffenberger

“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!

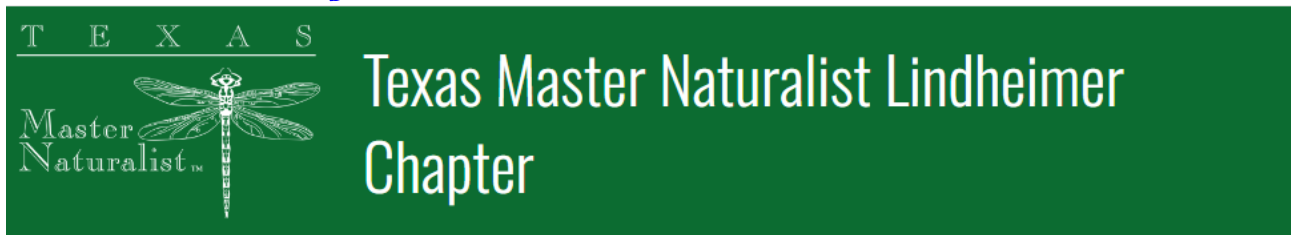
Here are the iNaturalist numbers as of April, 2024. Take a look at Comal County!!!

Location	Observations	Species	Observers
World	183,350,883	471,946	3,089,684
Texas	9,973,173	28,855	170,059
<b>Comal County</b>	<b>156,823</b>	<b>5,341</b>	<b>6,279</b>



### The Electronic Lindheimer

Website: [www://txmn.org/lindheimer/](http://www://txmn.org/lindheimer/) Take a look around our website to see what's available!



Welcome! Chapter Info ▼ Chapter Meetings Out & About Calendar Members ▼ 2024 Class  
 Chapter Projects & Opportunities Texas Waters Specialist Join Us! Program to Assist Landowners Donate  
 Current Chapter Initiatives ▼ Annual Membership Dues Application TMN Annual Meeting Planning Volunteers

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

Message Board: Takes the place of the weekly Ops & Info Email. Find the Message Board on the website – [txmn.org/lindheimer/message-board/](http://txmn.org/lindheimer/message-board/)