

Alamo Area Chapter News

September 2014

txmn.org/alamo



EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 9

BOARD MEETING

September 9

5:30 PM

AgriLIFE Extension
Classroom 208

GENERAL MEETING 7-8PM

Troy Luepke will be speaking about Chagas Disease. His Master's project is about the relationship between the ecology and the Kissing Bug

OFFICERS

President

Liz Robbins

liz.robbins.44@gmail.com
830-336-2778

Vice-President

Aubrey George

ageorge13@att.net

Treasurer

Nancy Thoss

nthoss1610@yahoo.com

Secretary

Camille Gong

Camille_bach@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President

Anton Hajek

tonyhajek@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The **Texas Master Naturalist Wildscape Demonstration Garden** sign has a new location. Thanks to the tenacity of the AAMN members who dedicate their time at the garden, the City of San Antonio agreed to move the sign from the street location facing Aubrey St. to a location that now faces the river front. If you have not been there lately to work or play, it's time you plan a trip to downtown to check out the sign! See link for location. <http://goo.gl/maps/yI6Hx>

AAMN FALL Class #35 is set to begin Thursday, September 4, 2014, at 12:30 PM at the PHP/UEC. You are all invited to join us in welcoming the new trainees. We'd love to see you there! For more details, please see the recent email from Pam Ball dated August 19th or contact Alicia.Hoover@aol.com or Sharon Kilmer at sakilmer@me.com.

Registration information for the October 24-26, **TMN Annual Meeting** is ready. Visit the state TMN website at txmn.org for more info and click on the Annual Meeting tab. If you do sign up, make sure to let Liz Robbins know. There is usually a \$50 drawing offered to one AAMN member who signs up for the annual meeting.

This past weekend I met in Austin with the **Teaming with Wildlife – True to Texas Coalition (TWW)**. This coalition is a re-branding of the highly publicized effort from the mid-90s. Present at the meeting was statewide volunteer director Rob Denkhous. Joining him as the sole staff member of the TWW coalition was Todd Sliger. Six TMN chapter representatives attended, as did TMN state coordinator Michelle Haggerty & TPWD Conservation Outreach Program leader Richard Heilbrun. The Coalition is now focused on building a voice for wildlife and conservation at the state level. The goal of the meeting was to request that the Alamo Chapter serve as a "hub chapter" among Central Texas MN Chapters and to recruit volunteers. Possible jobs include expanding their social media program, welcoming new members, and helping to introduce other organizations to the Coalition. This coalition will strive to bring to the forefront the challenges of rare and declining plant and wildlife species. They will need our help as the months go by. If interested in doing VSH with TWW coalition, contact me, Liz. robbins.44@gmail.com.

See links for more info.

Website: <http://goo.gl/zCRazb>

Facebook Page: <http://goo.gl/v2dO76>

Species of Greatest Conservation Need: <http://goo.gl/1FuFDm>



COMMITTEES

Activities Information

Chair Pam Ball
pball12@satxrr.com

Community Outreach

Chair Matt Carley
carleymatt@gmail.com

Historian

Keeley Porter
keeley.porter@gmail.com

Hospitality

Chair Alicia Hoover
auntalicia@aol.com

Membership

Chair Nancy Thoss
nthoss1610@yahoo.com

Media & Technology

Chair David Reichert

Web

reichert@satx.rr.com

Newsletter

Cristina Gonzalez
clealgonzalez@gmail.com

Calendar

Frank Ballard
fm4459@sbcglobal.net

Programs

Chair Tom Brotherman
electric_water_boy@yahoo.com

Education and Training

Chair Pam Ball
pball12@satx.rr.com

PINS AND AWARDS

Congratulations to all our pin recipients! Those who haven't received their pins may pick them up at the next Chapter meeting.

Initial Certification Dragonfly

Maribeth Beach - 34

Elias Escamilla - 34

Kathryn Gilson - 34

2014 Recertification - Armadillo

Cheryl Hamilton - 21

John Marrs - 23

Billie Murrell - 26

Unique re-certification pins are awarded each year to those who achieve eight hours of advanced training and 40 hours of volunteer service. This year that pin is the Nine-banded Armadillo. Milestone dragonfly pins are also awarded for 250, 500, 1000, 2500, 5000, & 10,000 hours of VSH.



Photo courtesy Balcones Satellite of the Texas Invaders

Newsletter Policies

Though we try to publish all material we receive, space is limited in each month's newsletter. Long articles may be published on the website instead of the newsletter, or they may not be published. Event notices must go through Pam Ball; and only the Activities Information Committee is authorized to declare whether an event is approved for Advanced Training or Volunteer Service Hours, so please do not include such a notice within your article or event. For ease of formatting, editing, and publication, please keep submissions as simple as possible. Text, pictures, and PDFs are best. Tables and block indents do not work for reformatting and print. Though the editor maintains the right to edit or exclude any article, several AAMN members provide valuable feedback on the newsletter prior to publication. Deadline for submissions is the 25th of each month.

Invasive Plant Removal Increases Native Plant, Bee, and Butterfly Populations

Members of the Balcones Invaders satellite have been eradicating plants for the past six years. We often wonder about the results of eradication. Does biodiversity increase? Do we need to replant natives? How effective are our eradication efforts long-term?

A five-year research study conducted by US Forest Service at the Southern Research Station provides answers to these questions. Comparisons between eradication sites and control sites proved that native plant and animal populations increased steadily and dramatically in areas cleared of Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) without remedial replanting. Effective and thorough eradication yielded minimal re-infestation. Chinese privet was removed by two methods: mechanical mulching and felling with chainsaws and machetes. All stumps were treated with herbicide. One year later, any new sprouts were treated with a foliar spray. Five years later, only 7% of the mulched plots and 3% of the felling plots were re-infested by Chinese privet. The eradication sites had more native plant diversity than the untreated control plots, thus proving that removal was beneficial to biodiversity and secondary succession of plant communities.

What about the return of pollinators to the ecosystem? Native bees and butterflies increased in both diversity and abundance in the eradication plots. In fact after only two years, there were four to five times more bee species and more than ten times as many bees in the privet-free areas. There were also three times as many butterfly species and nearly seven times as many individuals in the eradication plots. This trend continued for the five-year duration of the study. The results have implications for our satellite, suggesting that our efforts can have an immediate and lasting effect on the biodiversity of the eradication site. Effective eradication in our backyards, neighborhoods and preserves can increase biodiversity of plants and animals. To our eradication volunteers, that is exciting news indeed!

Local volunteers are needed for eradication of invasive plants. We have a supply of tools, but welcome anyone who brings their own. For details of location and directions, contact Lonnie at lonnieshockley@satx.rr.com. September schedule: Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:30 AM (VSH) on the Leon Creek Greenway.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Class 25 & State Rep.

Ron Tullius
210-739-2566
rtullius@sbcglobal.net

Class 27

David Reichert
reichert@satx.rr.com
Evelyn Penrod
epenrod@gvtc.com

Class 29

Tom Brotheman
electric_water_boy@yahoo.com

Class 30

Randy Baker
randy.baker@satx.rr.com
Alba De Leon
adeleon.tx@gmail.com

Class 31

Camille Gong
camille_bach@yahoo.com
Robert Ambriz
robert_ambriz@hotmail.com

Class 32

Matthew Carley
matthew.w.carley.civ@mail.mil
210-416-1887
Susan Campbell
susan.campbell@sanantonio.gov

Class 33

Jennifer DiCocco
jennifer.dicocco@sanantonio.gov
Cathy Oberkamp
cathy.the.teacher@gmail.com

Class 34

Chuck Saxer
cpsaxer@att.net
Kathryn Gilson
kcgilson@gmail.com

September Training and Volunteer Events

Texas Invaders- Balcones Chapter Invasive Plant Eradication (VSH)

Tue, September 2, 7:30AM – 9:30AM; Weekly on Tuesday
Leon Creek Greenway

Local volunteers are needed for eradication of invasive plants. No prior experience is required. Wear sturdy shoes, long-sleeved pants and shirts and gloves. Bring water. We have a supply of tools, but welcome anyone who brings their own. For details of exact location and directions, contact Lonnie at lonnieshockley@satx.rr.com. Those on the mailing list will receive notification of the location of the eradication area and cancellation for severe weather conditions.

Confusing Composites: A Wildflower Primer - Boerne Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas (AT)

Tue, September 2, 7PM – 8PM

Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne, TX
Look in any field guide or the flora of any state and among the most prominent members are those of the Asteraceae. This presentation will attempt to take a diverse and confusing group of wildflowers and make them a bit more manageable – and enjoyable to get to know. Craig Hensley is the Park Interpreter/Naturalist at Guadalupe River State Park. He has been an educator about the natural world for nearly thirty years. Come at 6:30 to socialize; meeting start at 7:00! Questions? or for details: Please contact Emily Weiner, NPSOT - Boerne Chapter at [meetup.com/Boerne-Native-Plant-Society-of-Texas/](https://www.meetup.com/Boerne-Native-Plant-Society-of-Texas/) or emily.a.weiner@gmail.com or 210-259-7009.

Warrior and Family Support Center Garden Workday (VSH)

Thu, September 4, 8:30AM – 11:30AM

Weekly on Thursday, until Dec 18, 2014

Warrior and Family Support Center (WFSC), Ft. Sam Houston, 3628 Rawley East Chambers, San Antonio, TX
Everyone with a passion for gardening is invited to volunteer at the gardens surrounding the WFSC at Fort Sam. All equipment is supplied but volunteers are welcome to bring their own. Water and other beverages are always available, and restrooms are plentiful. Volunteers must pass through gate security and present a picture ID. Contact Jennifer Slack at 210-916-9656 or jennifer.slack@us.army.mil. If you want to talk with a Master Naturalist who has worked there, contact Mary Homan: mary.h.homan@gmail.com.

Texas Native Trails Guided Tour (AT)

Friday, Sep 5, 10-11:30AM

San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX

Explore the 11-acre native trails area with a Master Naturalist. No registration required. Meet in Gertie's Garden. The September walk covers highlights of one or more trails. Contact person: Ron Tullius, rvtullius@sbcglobal.net or 210-739-2566.

Nature Walk at Eisenhower Park (AT)

Sat, September 6, 9:00AM – 10:30AM

Eisenhower Park, 19399 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX

This walk is planned for families with young children and will proceed at a leisurely pace on the paved trails of the park. This is a great way to begin introducing your child to nature. Child friendly craft included. Reservations are suggested; walks occasionally change. Call: 210-207-5320 or email peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov
Participants are limited to 15 per hike. Meet near the restrooms. A donation of \$2 per person, max \$6/family is suggested. Not for groups; contact us to schedule a separate walk for your group.

Kids' Birding at MLAC (VSH if assisting)

Wed, September 10, 8:30AM – 9:30AM

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, 10750 Pleasanton Road, San Antonio, TX

Family-fun morning designed to help the young ones learn how to use binoculars, identify our feathered friends, and see tons of the great southern Texas bird species! For more information call 210-628-1639.

Butterfly Surveys at Guadalupe River State Park (VSH)

Thu, September 11, 9am – 2pm

Guadalupe River State Park, 3350 Park Road 31, Spring Branch, TX

If you would like to help our ongoing efforts to monitor butterfly populations, please plan to join Park Ranger Craig Hensley and volunteers for either one or both of these surveys. Experience is not required (you'll learn as we go along). Please be sure to bring water, dress for hot weather and a sack lunch. Please email Craig at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov with questions or to inquire.

September Training and Volunteer Events

Riverwalk Garden Workday (VSH)

Fri, September 12, 9AM – 1PM

Monthly on the second Friday

Weather permitting, volunteers are needed to cut, trim, and plant at the San Antonio River Walk Wildscape Garden. Bring cutting tools such as shears, rakes, and clippers and also gloves and water for this workday. It would be great to see some new faces at this garden, our own Master Naturalist project at the corner of Aubrey and Old Guilbeau. The intersection is located north of Cesar Chavez, (formerly Durango) on the west side of the San Antonio river on the River Walk. Contact Evelyn Penrod at epenrod58@gmail.com or 830-438-2290 for parking and specific information about this month's work day. Sponsored by Alamo Area Master Naturalists Class 2.

Hike the Canyon (VSH if assisting)

Sat, September 13, 8AM – 12PM

Government Canyon State Natural Area, 12861 Galm Road, San Antonio, TX

Join the Friends of Government Canyon and the Sierra Club for a jointly-led guided hike on one of the many trails at Government Canyon State Natural Area. Length of hike will range from 4 to 7 miles depending on the group. Open to ages 13 and over; minors must be accompanied by an adult; group size limited to the first 12 people; no pets please. Dress appropriately, sunscreen and hat recommended, wear sturdy footwear for hiking over rough terrain; bring two liters of water and a snack. Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower; Note new start time: 8:00 AM–noon; subject to cancellation; Natural Area entrance fees apply. For more information and to confirm program, call 210-688-9055, ext. 289.

Hill Country Geology at Eisenhower Park (AT)

Sat, September 13, 10AM – 12PM

Eisenhower Park, 19399 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX

Retired geologist Bob Hixon shares how rocks are formed, what rocks and minerals are and how our local geology developed. Call 210-207-5320 or email peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov for reservations and information. Suggested donation: \$3.00 per individual/\$5.00 per family.

30 Bugs Every Gardener Should Know (AT)

Tue, September 16, 2PM – 4PM

Bexar County AgriLife Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Ste 208, San Antonio, TX

As you get geared up for spending time outdoors this fall, come learn what bugs you can expect to encounter and if they are good, bad, or just plain ugly! See actual specimens along with pictures and bring your own insects to be identified. Cost - \$10 (please pay by check at the door). Please RSVP to Molly at meckeck@ag.tamu.edu or 210-467-6575.

Wildlife for Lunch Webinar - Wild Pigs (AT)

Thu, September 18, 12pm – 1pm

The Texas Wildlife Association and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service sponsor lunchtime webinars the third Thursday of each month. If you are not able to attend the live webinar, each presentation is archived on the TWA website. It's Easy! On the day of the webinar, simply go to texas-wildlife.webex.com, and click on the title of the webinar you wish to attend. The webinar series provides sound, science-based wildlife management options delivered by experts to you in the comfort of your own home or office. For more information contact Clint Faas at 210-826-2904 or cfaas@texas-wildlife.org.

Texas Native Trails Guided Tour (AT)

Saturday, Sep 20, 10-11:30 AM

San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX

Explore the 11-acre native trails area with a Master Naturalist. No registration required. Meet in Gertie's Garden. The September walk covers the Hill Country Trail. Contact person: Ron Tullius, rvtullius@sbcglobal.net or 210-739-2566.

Native Plant Society of Texas - San Antonio

Tue, September 23, 7PM – 8PM

Lions Field Adult Center, 2809 Broadway, San Antonio, TX

Meetings of the San Antonio chapter of NPSOT are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month and are free and open to the public. Native plant & seed exchange is at 6:30 PM and the meeting follows. npsot.org/sanantonio

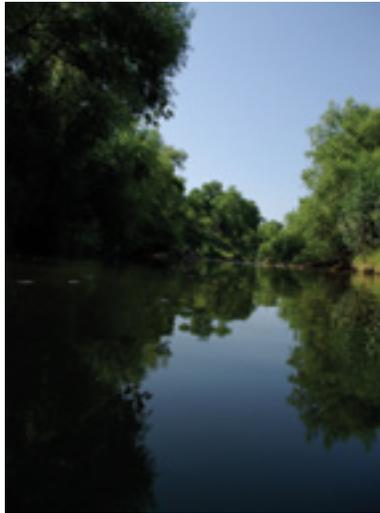


National Public Lands Day



Celebrate National Public Lands Day with the San Antonio River Authority and REI!

Saturday, September 27, 2014 • 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



PADDLING VOLUNTEERS: 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Join the water-based river cleanup of the SASPAMCO Paddling Trail! This paddling cleanup between the access points at the County Road 125 River Park and Helton-San Antonio River Nature Park.

Only 100 spots available. Registered volunteers will receive a T-shirt and breakfast snacks.

LAND-BASED VOLUNTEERS: 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Want to beautify a park in your community? Join land-based volunteer effort to eradicate invasive species and participate in educational nature hikes.

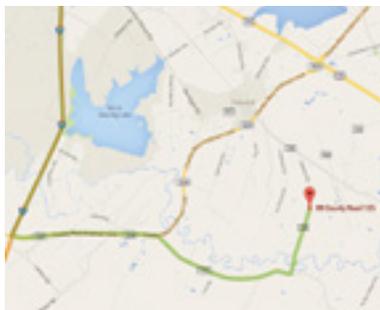
Only 120 spots available. Registered volunteers will receive a T-shirt. Registration deadline: September 10, 2014.

CEREMONY & LUNCH: 12:00 P.M.

A ceremonial tree planting will be held to celebrate the grand opening of the Helton-San Antonio River Nature Park and the completion of the 1.5 mile hike and bike trail. Free lunch provided for all volunteers!

Visit the community events page online at sara-tx.org to register.

For more information, contact Matthew Driffill at (210) 302-3222 or mdriffill@sara-tx.org.



Helton Nature Park
15662 FM 775
CR 125 River Park
89 County Road 125



15th Annual Statewide Meeting & Advanced Training



**Mo Ranch Conference Center
Hunt, Texas
October 24-26th, 2014**

OUR MISSION:

“TO DEVELOP A CORPUS OF WELL-INFORMED VOLUNTEERS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND SERVICE DEDICATED TO THE BENEFICIAL MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND NATURAL AREAS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS.”



This year’s annual meeting is proudly sponsored by:



(as of 8-19-14)

San Antonio Parks and Recreation-Natural Areas Stewardship Activities

The evidence is everywhere—trails benefit people and communities in many, many ways. In addition to providing inexpensive entertainment, trails contribute to improved physical, mental, and emotional health. Moreover, anyone who spends time on an outdoor trail cannot help but become more aware of the natural environment—the color of the sky, the temperature of the air, the feel of the wind. Trails also have a positive economic impact. For example, in a 1992 study, “the National Park Service estimated the average economic activity associated with three multi-purpose trails in Florida, California, and Iowa was \$1.5 million annually” (http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/pages/trailsplanning_benefits.aspx). This is just a brief overview of some of the ways in which trails improve our quality of life. There are countless others.

If you want to help build trails, we are resuming new trail construction at Friedrich Wilderness Park this fall (a portion of the new trails was completed and opened this past June). Jayne Neal will forward the schedule as soon as it becomes available. Meanwhile, see below for a trail related training opportunity, and the chance to help with tree protection.

Thurs., Sept. 11 and Thurs., Sept. 25, 8:30-11:30 AM (VSH) Meet at the entrance to Woodland Hills West, 7645 Heuermann Rd. We will build and install tree protection, so if you have fence cutters or a 3lb sledge hammer, please bring them along. This property is not open to the public and has no amenities. We will meet at the gate, go in, and leave as a group. For directions, please contact Jayne Neal (jayne.neal@sanantonio.gov or 210-207-3785).

Tues., Sept 30, 6:00-9:00 PM (AT) Sustainable Trail Design and Construction Training at Friedrich Wilderness Park Classroom, 21395 Milsa. Specializing in “hybrid projects working with volunteers and providing crew supervision for community trail building exercises,” S&S Trail Services is conducting a training session for volunteers interested in learning how sustainable trails are designed and constructed. Because seating is limited, priority will be given to people who commit to volunteering at least once in on-site trail construction at Friedrich Wilderness Park. **You must have a confirmed reservation in order to attend the training. To request a seat, please contact Jayne Neal by e-mail (Jayne.Neal@sanantonio.gov) or phone (210-207-3785).**

Texas Master Naturalist Video Contest Deadline Approaching

Call for entries: This is a call for original videos that explore and document the Texas Master Naturalist Program. The top three videos chosen will be announced and featured at the Texas Master Naturalist State Conference.

Deadline: September 19, 2014.

Length: Minimum is 30 seconds to 3 minutes max. The videos will be posted on the Wildlife Diversity Playlist on YouTube

What to Enter: File formats accepted: MOV, MP4, MPEG-4, WMV. .

Topics or Themes:

- What is a Master Naturalist?
- Your certification experience: basic and advanced
- Chapter project highlights
- Frequently asked questions
- Funniest questions or experiences in the field
- How to videos (creating a wildscape, conducting a species survey, planning a trail, assisting with exotic species control)

To submit your entries or if you have questions, contact Jennifer Buratti , TMN Program Social Media & Marketing Assistant at 512-787-0079 or jmburatti@gmail.com.