

Alamo Area Chapter News

January 2015

txmn.org/alamo



EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 2

AAMN BOARD MEETING

February 10

5:30 PM

AgriLIFE Extension
Classroom 208

General Meeting 7-8PM
Helen Holdsworth, Executive Director of Texas Brigades, a provider of natural resources education for youth aged 13-17.

OFFICERS

President

Liz Robbins

liz.robbins.44@gmail.com
210-548-8510

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

2ND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ROUND-UP

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2015

Time: 8:30AM ~ 3:30PM

Location: San Antonio River Authority Headquarters

Program: Alamo Area Texas Master Naturalist Wildscape Demonstration Garden

More details to come as we get closer to the event. **SAVE the DATE!**



ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP & DUES: If you have not sent in your updated paperwork and dues, please do so today. The updated form and check should be mailed to Nancy Thoss at address found on form. You can find a copy of the form at <http://goo.gl/DXgPaA>

2015 SPRING CLASS #36: AAMN is still accepting applications for the 2015 Spring Class 36. Help us fill the PHP/UEC Gathering Hall with folks interested in the Texas Master Naturalist program. The application can be found at this AAMN website link: <http://goo.gl/1WvkPa>

Monthly Business and Membership Meetings: All monthly meetings for 2015 will continue to be held every second Tuesday of the month at the AgriLife Extension building on Cherry Ridge. The business meeting begins at 5:30 PM, followed by the awarding of service pins and a program approved for advanced training. The business meetings and advance training programs are open to all Master Naturalist and to the public.

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 Sharon Kilmer
sakilmer@me.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

Pamela DeRoche - 27

2014 Recertification - Armadillo

David Adams - 22
Kaye Cosby - 35
Monique DeVries - 20
John Garland - 9
Sara Holland-Adams - 22
Arless Lenz - 21
Nalga Mebane - 21
Paul Mebane - 21
Carol Russell - 21

2015 Recertification - Bluebonnet

Ron Tullius - 25

2500 Hours Dragonfly

Pam Ball - 18



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.

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.

San Antonio Parks and Recreation Natural Areas Stewardship Activities

I got up to get a drink of water, and when I returned to my lawn chair, there s/he (for convenience assume female) was—an anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) occupying my seat. Being a respectful sort, I chose another chair, close enough though that I could watch the anole. She leapt off the chair and sailed in my direction. I could see one ear, her longish toes, and her sides expand and contract as she breathed.

Probably most folks already know that anoles can change colors (from green to brown or gray and back to green again), can lose a tail (or part of a tail) and regrow a replacement, and that the males have pink dewlaps (a flap of skin that hangs beneath the neck) that they expand when defending their territory or attracting a female.

But did you know that anoles have ear holes through which they hear, and that their ear drums are protected by feather like structures (<http://www.shoal-creekconservancy.org/i-spy/>)? Or that scientists who discovered the genetic recipe for anole tail regeneration think their findings may “help lead to discoveries of new therapeutic approaches to spinal cord injuries, repairing birth defects and treating diseases such as arthritis” in humans (<https://asunews.asu.edu/20140820-lizard-tail-regeneration>). You never know what you can learn from an anole, or, for that matter, from anything in nature.

If you have been thinking about helping us with trail building, land management, or landscape maintenance, pick a pretty day and come join us. Our highest priority this month continues to be the new Friedrich Wilderness Park trails. As soon as trail construction work times become available, they will be posted on the Master Naturalist calendar. Feel free to contact Jayne Neal at Jayne.Neal@sanantonio.gov, 210-207-3785, if you have questions.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Class 25

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

Class 26

Dwight Henderson
dwith10@hotmail.com
Billie Murrell
bmurrell6@att.net

Class 27

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

Class 28

LeLynn Koch
jefel@yahoo.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
carleymatt@gmail.com
210-416-1887
Susan Campbell
susan.campbell@sanantonio.gov

Class 33

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

Class 34

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

Class 35

Peter Ravdin
pmravdin@aol.com
April Thomason
alamocat@gmail.com

February Training and Volunteer Events

Owl Prowl (AT)

Tuesday, February 3, 6:30PM – 8:30PM

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

Join us during the full moon in February for a family-fun night all about OWLS! We'll have owl crafts, owl s'mores, owl prowls & listening walks, and a live owl presentation by our friends from SeaWorld San Antonio! FEES: \$5/person or FREE for MLAC Members!

- 6:30pm Owl Crafts, S'mores, and Owl Pellet dissection
- 7:15pm LIVE OWL PRESENTATION!
- 7:45pm Owl Prowl Walks & Tours to listen for owls and nightjars.

For information, contact mlac@audubon.org or call 210-628-1639.

Boerne Chapter - Native Plant Society of Texas (AT for presentation)

Tuesday, February 3, 7PM – 8PM

Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Road, Boerne, TX

Presentation begins at 7PM, but everyone is invited to socialize at 6:30! Questions or for details: Please contact Emily Weiner, NPSOT - Boerne Chapter at <http://www.meetup.com/Boerne-Native-Plant-Society-of-Texas/> or emily.a.weiner@gmail.com or 210-259-7009.

Friedrich Wilderness Park Wednesday Workday (VSH)

Wednesday, February 4, 9AM – 11AM

Monthly on the first and third Wednesday
Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa Dr, San Antonio, TX

Please join us from 9 to 11AM every first and third Wednesday at the Wildflower and Pond area (adjacent to parking lot) developed, planted, and maintained by NPSOT and TMN as far back as 1984 with primary contributions from member gurus Lottie Millsaps (Class #1) and Mary Frances Anderson (Class #2). Bring gloves, scuffle hoe, loppers, etc. Restrooms and water fountain available. Contact Gail Cooper for more information: 210 749-8826 or gatocooper@gmail.com.

Bird in the Hand (AT)

Saturday, February 7, 9 AM-noon

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

Looking for a great way to introduce your children to the wonder of birds? Then join Park Ranger and bird bander Craig Hensley for a morning of nose-to-beak looks at our native songbirds. From cardinals to goldfinches, you and your children will learn about the science and art of bird banding and how you can help. Meet us at the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Slitherin' Snakes Alive! (AT)

Saturday, February 7, 7PM-8PM

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

Join us for a presentation at the amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center on the natural history of Texas snakes. This PowerPoint presentation will introduce you to the variety of snakes found in our area and throughout Texas. You'll even have the opportunity to meet a live, native snake! This program is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Seasonal Oak Loop Walk & Teacher-in-the-Park Learning Opportunity (AT)

Friday, February 13, 10AM – 11:30AM

Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center, 8400 NW Military Highway, San Antonio, TX

Learn about all the online educational materials for children and adults written specifically for Hardberger Park. This session will review all of the Creekways and Natural Areas Guide (available on the AAMN website), as well as the children's materials (Hardy's nature guides and Hardy's Headlines), photo files, and supplementary resources such as tree inventories and grass files. A brief overview of the toddler Starting Out Wild curriculum and training will also be provided. Bring your laptop or a flash if you want to copy any of the materials not on the website. RSVP to Susan Campbell at susan.campbell@sanantonio.gov, 210-207-3106 or 210-207-3280.

February Training and Volunteer Events

Tracks and Traces Hike (AT)

Saturday, February 14, 10AM-11AM

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

Join Guadalupe River State Park's Ranger Craig Hensley for a walk in search of signs of wildlife along the Park's trails. From tracks and scat to the animals themselves, we'll put on our detective hats to see who's out and about. This program will be held at the amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center. This is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Prowlin' for Owls (AT)

Saturday, February 14, 6:30PM-8PM

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

We're heading out for a hootin' good time as we call and listen for Barred and possibly other owls that inhabit Guadalupe River State Park. Join the Park Ranger learn about owls and their amazing adaptations as well as who's whooooo among the owls of Texas. This program will be held at the amphitheatre at the Discovery Center and is free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Spring Wildflower ID Workshop (AT)

Wednesday, February 18, 9:30AM-noon

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

This first in a series of wildflower workshops at Guadalupe River State Park will introduce participants to the keys of wildflower identification with a focus on early spring wildflowers. This workshop is limited to the first 15 adults that register. Please email craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to reserve a seat. A \$5 donation to the Friends of Guadalupe River is requested. A park entry fee of \$7 per adult is required at the front gate.

Texas Native Trails Guided Tour: Seasonal Highlights (AT)

Friday, February 20, 10AM-11AM

SABA, 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. Contact: Ron Tullius, rvtullius@sbcglobal.net or 210-739-2566.

Winter Bird Walk (AT)

Saturday, February 21, 8:30AM-10:30AM

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

Join Guadalupe River State Park's Ranger for a morning walk in search of our winter feathered friends. From grassland sparrows to kingfishers and more, you'll become familiar with their identification and natural history. We have a limited number of binoculars for loan. We'll meet at the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Bats of Texas (AT)

Saturday, February 21, 6:30PM-7:30PM

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

Join us for a presentation on the bats of Texas. You'll learn about their adaptations, who they are and why bats are so important to a healthy environment. This presentation will be held at the amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Oak Loop Seasonal Walk: Sunrise Bird Walk (AT - VSH if assisting)

Saturday, February 28, 8AM - 10:15AM

Phil Hardberger Park West (Urban Ecology Center), 8400 NW Military Highway, San Antonio, TX

Three area birders regale you with their knowledge: Alan Kuentz, Patsy Kuentz, & Lora Reynolds. You have the chance to see, identify and appreciate the most common birds in the area. Walkers meet by 8 AM sharp on the patio of the PHP Urban Ecology Center. The Nature Walks are jointly sponsored by the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy, the Alamo Area Master Naturalists, and the Sierra Club. Minors are welcomed when accompanied by an adult parent or guardian. Dogs are allowed if leashed and socialized. The trail is flat with a natural surface. Walkers are encouraged to wear sturdy shoes, to bring water and sun protection, and to dress appropriately for the weather. Registration is not required. A donation to the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy of \$3 per individual or \$5 per family is suggested. Call the PHP Conservancy office for more information: 210-492-7472.



Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop

Saturday, March 21, 2014 (AT)

8:00am – 5:00pm

Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center

8400 NW Military Hwy.

San Antonio, TX 78231

Who should attend?

Texas landowners interested in wildlife tax valuation for their property.

Topics Include:

- Wildlife Tax Valuation Process
- Ecological Region Overview
- Determining Goals and Objectives
- 7 Wildlife Management Practices
- Appraisal District Q&A
- Annual Reports
- Assistance With Individual Plan Preparation

Space is limited so please register NOW!

Walk-in registration accepted if space available

For more information contact

Matt Reidy

830-876-8229

Matthew.reidy@tpwd.texas.gov



Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/saurbanwildlife>

HONEY I'VE GOT THE BEES

Are you interested in the budding world of backyard beekeeping?

Learn what others have taken years to learn in less than a day... and have fun doing so!

Come to this workshop where you will learn:

- * How to start beehives and maintain them*
- * Bee keeping without spending a lot of money*
- * How to keep bees healthy without chemicals*



What's the buzz all about?

- * Backyard bees produce tasty honey*
- * Bees increase fruit and vegetable harvests*
- * Beekeeping Qualifies as an Ag Use in Texas. Learn How to Reduce Your Property Taxes.*
- * Beekeeping is a wonderful hobby!*

The program is comprehensive, very interactive and is supplemented with detailed handouts on each aspect of bee keeping.

Presented by: Dr. Don Fraser, VP of Alamo Area Beekeepers

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2015 (AT)

9AM - 6PM

\$110

INCLUDES LUNCH

**Register
Online!**



WWW.CIBOLO.ORG

140 CITY PARK RD | BOERNE | 830.535.4616



Basura Bash

ANNUAL SAN ANTONIO
WATERWAYS CLEAN UP



Headwaters is once again sponsoring a Basura Bash cleanup at the “Head of the River.” Basura Bash is the annual citywide clean up of San Antonio’s waterways, powered entirely by volunteers.

“Register Now” at www.basurabash.org/users/new_volunteer

Follow these steps: 1. Enter name (individual or team/family); 2. Choose tributary: “Headwaters of the San Antonio River;” 3. Enter contact info (including # persons if a group); 4. Create a password for re-entry to your registration; 5. Click “Register;”6. Don’t forget to print/sign/bring the (Group/Individual) Liability Release Form.

If it says the Headwaters tributary is FULL, and you are a regular Headwaters volunteer, please contact Headwaters directly at info@headwaters-IW.org. If you register as a group and then go back into the registration page to edit anything, the number in your group automatically resets to “1” participant. PLEASE RE-ENTER the correct number in your group.

This is the 21st year for Basura Bash. Sadly, we still have a terrible trash problem. So while we gear up for another year of trash bashing, make your plans to come help us. Let’s make 2015 the biggest cleanup event in 21 years! And do right by the historic headwaters of the San Antonio River -- “the birthright of the city.”

Costa Rica Teacher Trip (FUN)

Educator Travel

- o Where: Costa Rica
- o Trip Length: 9 days / 8 nights
- o Available Trip Dates: July 13 - 21, 2015
- o 2015 Program Fee: 6-7 pax: \$1250, 8-9 pax: \$1,125, 10-11 pax: \$1,045, 12-16 pax: \$995/land
- o Program Fee Includes: Naturalist guide(s), private in-country transportation, accommodations (price is based on triple and quads), meals as outlined, laundry once during trip, activities, entrance fees, and related tips and purified water available on the bus.
- o The Highlights:
 - o Designed for teachers who want to preview a trip prior to traveling with students or for teachers and master naturalists who want to have fun in a tropical ecoregion and learn along the way.
 - o Visit the sustainable community of Posada Montserrat, located in the cloud forest, and learn about sustainable agriculture, organic farming and micro-enterprises.
 - o Tour a coffee co-op and stay on-site at their ecolodge.
 - o Participate in a mask making workshop with the Boruca indigenous community.
 - o Spend two days on the Osa Peninsula and help with in-water sea turtle monitoring and mangrove reforestation.
 - o End your trip relaxing on the beaches of the Pacific Coast or Tram & Canopy Zipline tour.

The Eco Teach Costa Rica teacher trip is designed for those who plan to travel with their students and want to preview the experiences, projects and activities. Visit the sustainable community of Posada Montserrat located in the central volcanic range of Costa Rica and surrounded by lush cloud forest and biodiversity. This community is comprised of 12 families committed to sustainable agriculture, organic farming, conservation and micro-enterprises to support the local economy. Tour a coffee co-op, stay at their eco-lodge and participate in a mask making workshop with an indigenous community. Travel to the Osa Peninsula and help with in-water sea turtle monitoring and mangrove reforestation. Before heading home, relax on the beaches of the Pacific Coast.