

Alamo Area Chapter News

April 2016

txmn.org/alamo



EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 4

AAMN BOARD MEETING

April 12 at 5:30 PM
AgriLife Extension
3355 Cherry Ridge
Classroom 208

General Meeting 7 PM (AT)
Phillip Bedford of
Green Spaces Alliance
will speak about their
Bulverde Oaks property

OFFICERS

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Immediate Past President
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President's Message

Howdy folks! I have to say this president gig is something. Who knew? Except the past presidents, of course. Things are happening all over the city, the county, and the state at just about the same rate as everything is popping up this spring. The Alamo Area Master Naturalists are doing great things. We have folks featured in the Express News and Channel 4's News for Nature; volunteers are building butterfly houses, educating new trainees, accepting letters of appreciation, eradicating invasive plants, starting up new projects at Medina River Natural Area, looking into specialty plates, and updating the website. The list is seemingly endless. How great is that?



AAMN President Matt Carley, photo courtesy Liz Robbins

This is the time of year when it seems like everyone is planning some kind of event, program, or educational opportunity; the weekdays and weekends seem chock full of things to do. So having said that, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone for what they have been doing over the years. Thank you, volunteers who are out there working at the same place day after day, maybe at the Botanical Gardens, Headwaters Sanctuary, Riverwalk Garden, or Weed Wednesday. "Thank you" to the people who put this newsletter together, lead the hikes at Oak Loop, and educate people about birds at Mitchell Lake, and to volunteers who teach about the bugs, the bees, the bats, and the trees. They work in the caves, the creeks, and the greenways. You all are the backbone of this organization, and I thank you. Why? Besides the obvious, I want to thank you because I feel as president I should be everywhere, and I just cannot pull that off. I guess I just want you to know that I am keenly aware of everything that everyone does for this chapter, and it's through your individual contributions that this chapter finds its strength.

Enjoy the weather and this time of year when everything and anything seems possible.

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Pins and Awards

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

Initial Certification Dragonfly

Michelle Hobbs – 37
Julie Strepek – 37

2016 Recertification – Guadalupe Bass

Julie Croisant – 30
Jamie Daily – 22
Jeanette Geiman – 37
Anne Gulley – 20
Tom Inglet – 8
Jessica Leslie – 20
Hal Manzke – 34
Jennifer Sorenson – 33
Mike Tayloe – 36
April Thomason – 35

Rain Gardens: (AT)

Landscaping for Sustainability & Beauty

Friday
April 15, 2016

Great Northwest Lodge
8809 Timberwilde Drive,
San Antonio, TX 78250

For more information
on rain gardens,
please visit
www.sara-tx.org

Hands-on activities:

- Interactive residential LID model to demonstrate negative and positive stormwater impacts related to typical residential properties
- Live plants and activities to help plan your rain garden

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The workshop is designed to show and discuss the use of rain gardens to benefit water quality, wildlife and landscape aesthetics.



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Class 25

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NEWSLETTER Tales—A Look Back in Time

What newsletter items did AAMN members encounter in past issues?

Jan 2009: Volume 13, Issue 1 — The spring 2009 training class meeting site was announced: the Montessori School of San Antonio, at 17722 Rogers Ranch Parkway. The campus “is like a miniature protected, natural-area park, sitting in the middle of a very busy, a highly populated area.” Graduation was scheduled for the Carriage House at the San Antonio Botanical Garden.

May 2009: Volume 13, Issue 5 — AAMN member Jamie Daily reported on the White-winged Dove project sponsored by TPWD. Volunteers “will be trained...and licensed” to trap and release the birds to determine the extent of their movements. “Kniffen funnel traps” are “extremely safe and effective.” Cracked corn was the bait. “The goal is to trap 10,000 birds statewide.”

April Training and Volunteer Events

Native Landscape Certification Program - Level 3 (AT)

Fri, April 1, 8 AM – 4 PM

San Antonio River Authority, Mission Road Operations Center, 8510 Mission Parkway, San Antonio, TX
Level 3, Installing and Maintaining Native Landscapes

- Visualize the differences between native and non-native landscapes.
- Comprehend how to install native plants into a landscape, including: plant choice, purchase, placement, spacing; bed and soil preparation; how to plant trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, and seeds; what soils to use; mulching techniques.
- Understand maintenance requirements, techniques, and maintenance schedules for native trees, shrubs, palms, yuccas, perennials, grasses, and ground covers.
- Become familiar with 45 native Texas plants recommended for your landscape and 5 exotic, invasive plants to avoid.
- Level 3 participants will receive a completion certificate; those who, additionally, pass a test will receive a competency certificate, from the Native Plant Society of Texas. Those receiving competency certificates in Levels 1 and 3 will be awarded a Certificate in Native Plant Landscape Maintenance – a plus for maintenance specialists!
- Training will include a classroom session and a 2-hour outdoor walk.
- Only participants who have completed Level 1 may attend Level 3. Level 2 is not a pre-requisite for Level 3.
- Registration fee for Level 3 class is \$37 for Native Plant Society members and \$52 for non-members. To register – please go to www.npsot.org/wp/nlcp. For questions, contact the Native Plant Society of Texas – San Antonio at npsot.sanantonio@gmail.com.

Starting Out Wild: Blooming Blossoms (ages 1-3) (AT)

Sat, April 2, 10 AM – 11 AM

Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa Road, San Antonio, TX

Learn about flowers, seeds, leaves, stems, blossoms, and blooms! These high energy, engaging programs are a perfect way to foster an appreciation of the natural world. It is recommended that a child be walking and a parent or caretaker attend with each child. Most classes will take place outdoors. RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.

Project ACORN Field Trips (TR)

Fri, April 1, 9:15 AM – 12:30 PM

Acequia Park, 8500 Mission Parkway, San Antonio, TX

These field trips are typically for under 30 students in grades 4th-5th in the Project ACORN program (ACORN= Alamo-area Children Organized to Replant Natives). Students will rotate among three activities: water quality testing, GPS tree hunt, and nature walk w/ plant id and scavenger hunt. Master Naturalists will be in charge of leading the nature walk. Walk is a 1 mile loop. Training booklet provided, but focus will be on ecosystem restoration, native plants, flora and fauna. Contact Kayla Gasker at 210-302-3259 or kgasker@sara-tx.org if you are interested. If you do not want to lead a group, but would like to shadow, just let me know!

Friedrich Wilderness Park Hike (AT)

Sat, April 2, 8 AM – 10 AM

Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa Road, San Antonio, TX

With the arrival of spring, the flowers are blooming, and nature is jumping back to life. Take advantage of the natural beauty by taking a trek along Friedrich's most scenic trails, including Bosque Trail, Vista Loop and Main Loop while learning about the park's diverse ecosystem. This hike will cover approximately 3 miles of trails. RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.

Guided Hike to the Dinosaur Tracks (AT)

Sat, April 2, 8 AM – 12 PM

Government Canyon State Natural Area, 12861 Galm Road, San Antonio, TX Join TPWD Interpreter John Koepke for a special guided hike to the dinosaur tracks in Government Canyon SNA. Open to all ages; minors must be accompanied by an adult and capable of hiking 5 miles over rugged terrain. Group size limited; no pets please. Dress appropriately, sunscreen and hat recommended, and wear sturdy footwear appropriate for rough trails; bring two liters of water per person and a snack. Reservations are required and can be made online at <http://friendsofgc.org/events/> through April 1. Plan to be at the Visitor Center no later than 7:45 AM; the hike starts promptly at 8:00AM. Subject to cancellation. On inclement mornings call GCSNA's main office at 210-688-9055.

April Training and Volunteer Events

Map and Compass Basics: Finding Your Way in The Wild! (AT)

Sat, April 2, 1 pm – 4 pm

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

Learn to use a map and compass! Join Phil Starr for a fun workshop and field exercises to help you learn how to find your way around Government Canyon and other Natural Areas and Parks. BYO compass or borrow one of ours. Open to everyone 12 years and older; class size is limited to the first 12 people who sign up. No group reservations accepted. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by their parent or guardian. No pets please. All participants must be able to hike over broken, rocky terrain with some changes in elevation. Wear sturdy shoes and weather appropriate clothing; bring water (1 liter per person), and a snack if you like. Meet at the Exhibit Gallery by the main Visitor Center. Reservations required and will be accepted through noon Friday April 1. Make your reservation at friendsofsgc.org/events/. Include name, age if under 18, email address and telephone number. Natural Areas fees apply. For information email activities@friendsofsgc.org or call 210-688-9055; ext. 2009. NOTE: This program has a rain date of Saturday, April 9: Same time/same info

Balcones Satellite of the Texas Invaders: Invasive Plant Eradication (RM)

Tue, April 5, 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Weekly on Tuesday, until May 24

April is a wonderful month to be outdoors! The trees, shrubs and flowers are in bloom, and the weather is perfect for our eradication efforts. Please join our group of dedicated volunteers to eradicate invasive plants. No prior experience is required. Sturdy shoes, long-sleeved pants and shirts, gloves and water are necessary. 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. Tuesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26 between 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM.

Second Saturday: Wild Things! (all ages) (AT)

Sat, April 9, 10 AM – 12 PM

Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa Road, San Antonio, TX

Take a walk on the wild side with Blaine Eaton, San Antonio's reptile guy! Meet Rose the alligator, hold a ball python, and learn how reptiles differ from other terrestrial vertebrates through discussion, and hands-on fun! RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.

Hike the Canyon (AT)

Sat, April 9, 8:30 AM – 12 PM

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. The 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 is limited; no pets please. Dress appropriately; sunscreen and hat recommended. Wear sturdy footwear appropriate for rough trails; bring two liters of water per person and a snack. Natural Area Entry fees apply. Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower after stopping at the Entrance Fee Booth Area to self-pay/register. Plan to be at the Visitor Center no later than 8:15AM; the hike starts promptly at 8:30AM. Subject to cancellation. On inclement mornings call GCSNA's main office (210-688-9055) after 7:30 AM Saturday to check on trail conditions, or go to the GCSNA website twitter feed (<http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/government-canyon>), or to the GCSNA Facebook page. For more information call 210-688-9055; ext. 2009.

Texas Tough Roundtable Series: Soil (AT)

Sat, April 9, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

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

Meet with gardening experts in these roundtable forums to discuss basic design principles and implementation techniques for drought-tolerant landscapes. Fee: \$15 (\$13.50 members) For information, contact Nadezhda at deprograms@sabot.org.

April Training and Volunteer Events

Botanical Garden Native Plant Walk (AT)

Sat, April 9, 10 AM – 11:30 AM

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

Explore our 11-acre Texas Native Trail with a Master Naturalist. Meet at Carriage House. Free for Botanical Society members. No registration required. For information, contact Nadezhda at deprograms@sabot.org.

Wildflower Walk. (AT)

Sun, April 10, 1:30 PM – 4 PM

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

Come with us in search of Texas wildflowers and other native plants. Moderate intensity hike; must be able to walk over rocky, uneven ground. Open to ages 8 and up; minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. No pets please. Sturdy shoes, sun protection, and at least 1 liter of water per person strongly recommended. Sorry, no picking flowers allowed; photography welcome! Registration required and will be accepted until noon April 8. Reserve your spot online at <http://friendsofgc.org/events/>. Sorry, no group reservations. Include name, age if under 18, e-mail address and telephone number for each reservation. Subject to cancellation. For more information, e-mail activities@friendsofgc.org or call 210-688-9055, ext 2009. Natural Area entrance fees apply.

Starting Out Wild: Blooming Blossoms (ages 1-3) (AT)

Fri, April 15, 10 AM – 11 AM

Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom, 21395 Milsa Road, San Antonio, TX

Learn about flowers, seeds, leaves, stems, blossoms, and blooms! These high energy, engaging programs are a perfect way to foster an appreciation of the natural world. It is recommended that a child be walking and a parent or caretaker attend with each child. Most classes will take place outdoors. RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.

Rain Garden Workshop (AT)

Fri, April 15, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Great Northwest Lodge, 8809 Timberwilde Drive, San Antonio, TX

Hands-on activities include:

- Interactive residential LID model to demonstrate negative and positive stormwater impacts related to typical residential properties;
 - Live plants and activities to help plan your rain garden.
- For more information, go to www.sara-tx.org.

Birds, Bass & Boats (TR)

Sat, April 16, 8:15 AM – 12:30 PM

Acequia Park, 8500 Mission Parkway, San Antonio, TX

Volunteers are needed to assist with this birding, paddling, and fishing program. This program is funded through the TPWD Community Outdoor Outreach Program grant. The AAMN Chapter has agreed to be a partner in this grant. Volunteers will assist with fishing, birding and citizen science applications. Participants will learn how to kayak, use binoculars, identify birds, go fishing, learn fish conservation and learn the iNaturalist citizen science application. Contact Kayla Gasker at 210-302-3259 or kgasker@sara-tx.org if you are interested. Lunch provided.

Explore the Canyon (AT)

Sat, April 16, 8:30 AM – 12 PM

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

Knowledgeable guides discuss the flora, fauna, natural and cultural history of this awesome natural area on this exploration. Open to all ages; 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. Entry fees apply. Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower after stopping at the Entrance Fee Booth Area to self-pay/register. Plan to be at the Visitor Center no later than 8:15 AM; the hike starts promptly at 8:30 AM. Subject to cancellation. On inclement mornings call GCSNA's main office (210-688-9055) after 7:30 AM Saturday to check on trail conditions, or go to the GCSNA website twitter feed or to the GCSNA Facebook page. For more information call 210-688-9055; ext. 2009.

April Training and Volunteer Events

Wilderness Survival Basics (AT) *TENTATIVE*

Sat, April 16, 12 PM – 6 PM

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

Would you know what to do if you got lost in the wilderness? Join SOS Adventures Master Outdoor Leader Joey Rios and learn the skills you'll need to stay alive and get found! This interactive course is designed to teach adults the skills they'll need to be confident and safe if they ever get lost outdoors. Dress for the weather; bring plenty of water, a snack and sun protection. Open to ages 14 and older; all minors must be accompanied by parent or guardian; no pets please. Reservations required and will be accepted through noon on Friday, April 15. Class size limited to the first 12 who sign up. No group reservations. Reserve your spot at <http://friendsofsgc.org/events/>. Include name of each participant, age if under 18, e-mail address, and telephone number for each reservation. For more information, e-mail activities@friendsofsgc.org or call 210-688-9055; ext. 2009. Entrance fees apply; program subject to cancellation.

Wildflower Identification Training (AT)

Tue, April 19, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Acequia Park, 8500 Mission Parkway, San Antonio, TX

Learn how to identify native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs from SARA staff. Overview of ecosystem restoration and water quality, as well. This training is great for those who will be leading groups for the Earth Day Wildflower Hike on April 23. Contact Kayla Gasker at 210-302-3259 or kgasker@sara-tx.org if you are interested.

Climate Change and its Implications for the Water/Energy Nexus (AT)

Tue, April 19, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

William R. Sinkin EcoCentro, 1892 North Main St, San Antonio, TX

Hear a talk by Dr. Fred Loxsom, who served for eight years as the Endowed Chair in Sustainable Energy Studies at Eastern Connecticut State University, and he continues to teach an online course on Sustainable Energy for that university. There will be a brief report from a Conservation Committee on San Antonio's water/energy nexus. For information, contact Stan Drezek, stanwendre@gmail.com, or 210-464-1365.

Growing Up Wild: Seed Need (ages 3-7) (AT)

Wed, April 20, 10 AM – 11:30 AM

Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom, 21395 Milsa Road, San Antonio, TX

Learn about seeds through stories, songs, and hands-on activities. Growing Up Wild builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Activities are designed to provide an early foundation for an appreciation of nature. RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.

Texas Adopt A Beach Program (RM)

Sat, April 23, 8 AM – 12 PM

Various locations along Texas coastline

Texas Adopt A Beach program is an effort to remove debris from our beaches and coastal waters and to increase public awareness about the problem of beach litter. It is a statewide effort in preservation and conservation of Texas beaches and coastal resources. There are many locations along the Texas coastline including Corpus Christi, Port Aransas, Aransas Pass, South Padre, Rockport, etc. which are all listed on the following website. Registration is also done on the website. <http://www.glo.texas.gov/adopt-a-beach/volunteer/cleanups/index.html> Contact: Renee Tuggle at Renee.Tuggle@glo.texas.gov or 877-892-6278. There will also be a Dive Against Debris with Project Aware following the beach cleanup in Port Aransas at the Horace Caldwell Pier at 1:30 PM. It will be a one tank dive which you must bring with you along with all other scuba gear. Contact: Sherie Gee at slgee18@yahoo.com or 210-367-1625

Designing and Planning (AT)

Sat, April 23, 9:30 AM – 11 AM

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

Instructor: Randy Baker. Learn how to develop and implement simple landscape design, research plants, determine what to plant where, and establish plants. Fee: Free with Admission

April Training and Volunteer Events

Oak Loop Seasonal Walk: Lottie Millsap Wildflower Walk (AT)

Sat, April 23, 8 AM – 10 AM

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

Leaders: Wendy and Stan Drezek. Donald Ewers will be the expert standing in for Floyd Waller, who was to lead this year's Lottie Millsaps Annual Wildflower Walk. This event's general sponsors are the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy, the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department's Nature Areas, the Alamo Area Master Naturalists, and the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club. The SA Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas is a special sponsor. Its purposes include appreciating the beauty of the natural area, observing how nature changes through the seasons, and learning on the topical focus of each walk. This month's focus is wildflowers in honor of long-time Native Plant Society member and mentor, Lottie Millsaps. Come learn with our accomplished local expert, Donald Ewers.

Donald is a certified Texas Master Naturalist who volunteers as a field guide for the San Antonio River Authority, the San Antonio Parks Natural Areas and the San Antonio Botanical Garden's Texas Native Trails. He is also Vice-president of the San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) and an instructor for the NPSOT Native Landscape Certification Program. You can see his take on nature at: <http://whileonawalk.blogspot.com/> Please meet by 8:00 AM SHARP to sign up for a 8:10 AM departure. We will walk along several of the trails close to the UEC where Donald will have scouted out the most wildflowers. There will be brief explanations at the start and along the way with ample time for participant questions. Minors only when accompanied by an adult parent/guardian. Dogs allowed if leashed and socialized. DIFFICULTY: Easy, definitely suitable for families. Flat terrain, slow-paced. This will only be a 1.5 mile walk at most and last about two hours ending back at the Urban Ecology Center around 10:15 AM The trail is a natural surface so be sure to wear sturdy shoes and, dependent on the weather, bring water, sun protection, and dress appropriate for the day and season. Suggested \$3 individual or \$5 family donations to the PHP Conservancy to support enhancements to the park.

Earth Day Wildflower Hike (TR)

Sat, April 23, 8:45 AM – 11:30 AM

Acequia Park, 8500 Mission Parkway, San Antonio, TX
Volunteers are needed to lead walks around Acequia Park loop (1 mile) and identify native plant species. General audience will be kids and families. NPS staff will be on hand to talk about how the natives used plants prior to Spanish arrival. Plant a wildflower seed activity included. Training for this is on Tuesday, April 19. You do not need to attend the training in order to volunteer, however it is recommended. Contact Kayla Gasker at 210-302-3259 or kgasker@sara-tx.org if you are interested.



The poster features a green background with a white border. At the top, the text 'Earth Day' is in a green, bubbly font, followed by 'Wildflower Hike' in purple and red. A small globe icon with the word 'Free' is to the right. Below the title, the date and time '9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Saturday, April 23, 2016' and location 'Acequia Park 8500 Mission Parkway, San Antonio 78223' are listed. The main text describes the event: 'Celebrate Earth Day on a wildflower hike along the San Antonio River! Learn about native wildflower species, citizen science programs and ecosystem restoration. Plus, plant-your-own wildflower activity included!'. At the bottom, there are icons for a peace symbol, a heart, and a flower. A pink banner at the bottom contains registration information: 'Registration suggested. Contact Kayla Gasker at 210-302-3259 or kgasker@sara-tx.org to register and for more information.'



FIND YOUR **PARK**

April Training and Volunteer Events

GCSNA Night Hike (AT) *TENTATIVE*

Sat, April 23, 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

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

Experience the canyon after dark. Join knowledgeable guides on a fairly short hike and maybe we'll even howl at the moon if it's up and glowing! Participants should be able to hike 3 miles over rugged but beautiful trails with some elevation gain. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes. Bring a flashlight, at least a quart of water, and a snack if you like. Meet at the Visitor Center by the Rainwater Harvesting Tower. Reservations required; accepted through noon, April 22. Group size limited to the first 12 who register; open to ages 14 and older; minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian; no pets please. Reserve your spot at friendsofsgc.org/events/. No group reservations. Include name, age if under 18, e-mail address, and telephone number for each reservation. Due to weather conditions, this program is subject to cancellation. For information, e-mail activities@friendsofsgc.org or call 210-688-9055, ext. 2009. Entrance fees apply. **IMPORTANT:** Since this hike begins after hours, be sure to self-register as you enter the Natural Area. Instructions are posted to the right of the Fee Booth. You will need correct change: \$6 per adult (13 years or older), or enter your annual Texas State Parks pass number on the appropriate line of the self-pay envelope.

GCSNA Bird Hike: Golden Cheek Warbler Hike (AT) *TENTATIVE*

Sun, April 24, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

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

Join Steve Hawkins, member San Antonio Audubon Society Bird Records Committee, for a hike to find birds of Government Canyon and the Edwards Plateau. We will look for changes in GCSNA's bird life as the seasons progress. Length of walk and destination will vary, depending on the interests, abilities, etc. of the group. Open to the first 12 people who show up (no large groups please); all ages welcome; minors must be accompanied by an adult; no pets please. Meet at the Visitor Center by the Rainwater Harvesting Tower. BYO binoculars or binoculars can be provided. Natural Areas fees apply; subject to cancellation. For information email activities@friendsofsgc.org or call 210-688-9055; ext. 2009.

Plant Tour & Tips (AT)

Sunday, April 24, 2 PM – 3 PM

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

Instructors: Nancy and Gary Rogers. Explore the Botanical Garden with a tour and identification of the native and adapted plants that are offered by SAWS Coupon. Fee: Free with Admission.

Field Guides Needed (TR)

Tue, April 26, 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Concepcion Park, 60 E. Theo Ave, San Antonio, TX

Volunteers are needed to lead flora and fauna walks along the Mission Reach trail at Concepcion Park. There will be a separate flora walk and fauna walk. Binoculars and field guides will be provided. Walks will be approximately 25-35 minutes in length and can cover a variety of environmental topics.

Tuesday, April 26 – 5th Grade Hardy Oak ES

Wednesday, April 27 – 4th Grade Locke Hill ES

Lunch will be provided. Contact Kayla Gasker at 210-302-3259 or kgasker@sara-tx.org if you are interested.

Botanical Garden Native Plant Walk (AT)

Fri, April 29, 10 AM – 11:30 AM

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

Explore our 11-acre Texas Native Trail with a Master Naturalist. Meet at Carriage House. Free for Botanical Society members. No registration required. For information, contact Nadezhda at deprograms@sabot.org.

Butterfly Workshop (AT)

Saturday, April 30, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

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

Instructors: Mary Kennedy and Mobi Warren. Learn about monarch butterflies and their spring migration from Mexico. Measure monarchs and monitor for the Monarch Larval Monitoring Project. Fee: \$20 (\$18 member)

San Antonio Parks and Recreation Natural Areas Stewardship Activities

The smell of mowed grass—simple enough and common now as the weather warms. But did you know that this scent is not only a plant’s distress signal, but is also a way of summoning help? It does not matter whether the “attacker” is a lawn mower or a predatory insect. According to Dr. Michael Kolomiets, Texas A&M AgriLife Research plant pathologist, “when there is need for protection, the plant signals the environment via the emission of volatile organic compounds” (<http://today.agrilife.org/2014/09/22/mown-grass-smell-sends-sos-for-help-in-resisting-insect-attacks-researchers-say/>). These volatiles play a role in protecting the plant either by repelling the predator or by making the plant less palatable. Moreover, these same chemicals attract parasitic wasps. The wasps lay eggs in the insect herbivores, thus reducing the negative impact of the predator. Additional studies suggest that the gene required to produce these protective compounds may also have a role in affecting drought tolerance. Amazing—the economy of Nature!

While we will not mow any grass, we may trim other plants, do trail maintenance, and/or protect seedlings/saplings this month. In April we are experimenting with scheduling volunteer opportunities EVERY Thursday. Please see schedule below. Please bring leather work gloves, and note that construction on Babcock between Camp Bullis and Luskey may impact your travel route.

April 7 and April 21, 8:00-11:30 AM Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa, meet in the Administration/Classroom building

April 14 and 28, 8:00-11:30 AM Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, 7222 Luskey, meet in the parking lot.

Alamo Area Chapter Recognized

At the February Board of Directors meeting of the San Antonio Botanical Society, Inc. the Alamo Area Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist was recognized for **EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE** to the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Master Naturalists have been volunteering there in a myriad of ways since 1997, the founding year of the chapter.

