

Alamo Area Chapter News

February 2016

txmn.org/alamo



EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

AAMN BOARD MEETING
February 9 at 5:30 PM
AgriLife Extension
3355 Cherry Ridge
Classroom 208

General Meeting 7 PM (AT)
By request, this meeting will be "The History of San Pedro Springs" as presented by Gregg Eckhardt.

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President's Message

Howdy folks! It's been a busy month, and I'd like to start off by saying that the Annual New Year's Lasagna Dinner was a great success. Thanks go out to everyone who brought food and drinks, helped serve, cleared plates, washed dishes, and saw to the trash. It may sound trite, but a lot of effort goes into those events, and some of the tasks are not exactly exciting. You guys know who you are, and I sincerely hope you know that I and the other folks present appreciate it. Thank you Nancy Brown for getting the ball rolling and keeping this tradition alive. Also, thanks to Emily Hawthorn for bringing in some metal forks and assorted cutlery. Nice! I think we are well on our way to have zero plastic ware at our events.

Training went well for VMS and "well done" to Nancy Thoss for getting that information out on VMS. It was a large group, and there was a lot to learn.

Just a reminder to all, don't hesitate to recruit new members. This past week, I promoted the chapter to a bright young lady volunteering at Government Canyon and a very pleasant young man staffing the interpretive center at Cibolo Nature Center. I've got to say that when you're enthusiastic about the chapter, it's contagious. Deadline to submit the application is February 1st.

The membership drive is still moving along, and I would love to see everyone who receives this newsletter get on our website and pay those dues. As a matter of fact, I am willing to sponsor one fellow Master Naturalist. So whoever emails me first with a good reason for me coughing up \$12.00, I'm on it.

Lastly, log those hours! If you're like me, you go out, you do your volunteering, and then you figure you'll log in later on. Well, later on comes pretty quick when you only have 45 days to report your hours, so be sure to set up an account, and please get those VSH recorded.

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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 February chapter meeting.

Initial Certification Dragonfly

Don Arburn - 35
Pearla Romero - 35
Marion Welsh - 37

2015 Recertification – Texas Bluebonnet

(Completed by Dec 31, 2015)

Valerie Carter-Cole – 35
Pam DeRoche - 27
Donald Kolle - 37
Kayla Gasker - 34
Sherie Gee - 37
Jeanette Geiman - 37
Chris Harrison - 30
LeLynn Koch - 28
Nalga Mebane - 21
Linda Murray - 32
Alicia Ramsey – 32
Tim Roan – 31
Carol Russell – 21
Nancy Sandoval – 34
Drake White - 36

2016 Recertification – Guadalupe Bass

Ron Tullius - 25

250 Hours Dragonfly

LeLynn Koch - 28

Newsletter Policies

We try to publish all material we receive, but space is limited in each month's newsletter. Long articles may be published on the website instead of the newsletter. 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. Deadline for submissions is the 25th of each month.

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In My Master Naturalist Backyard

This poor tiny snake was beneath the horseherb groundcover in my backyard. I have tentatively identified it as a flat headed snake (*Tantilla gracilis*), which the reference says is 7-12 inches as an adult. When I accidentally uncovered it, I replaced the foliage, left a twig as a marker, and went away for an hour or so. When I returned, it was lying just as I had left it, so I took several photos.



I suspect it died from the almost freezing air temperatures of the past few nights. Since it had no sign of ants or other scavenger, I guess it was alive until a day or two before I found it. The fabric on which I photographed it is a 5" wide piece of flannel. I'd welcome another AAMN chapter member correcting my species ID, since snakes are not my strong point. I'm always saying that nature is right in front of you, whether you see it or not, and here is my most vivid recent example.

Lissa Martinez

February Training and Volunteer Events

Headwaters of Incarnate Word Film Series:

Monday Matinee - 1st Monday of each month (AT)

Mon, February 1, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Christus Heritage Hall, The Village at Incarnate Word, 4707 Broadway, San Antonio, TX

Monday Matinee – Films on topics of environmental conservation and preservation. First Monday of each month, 3:30 PM. Contact person: Pamela Ball at pamela.ball@amormeus.org or 210-842-7967. Admission is free. *Plastic Paradise*: Thousands of miles away from civilization, Midway Atoll is in one of the most remote places on earth. And yet it's become ground zero for The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, siphoning plastics from three distant continents. In this independent documentary film, journalist/filmmaker Angela Sun travels on a personal journey of discovery to uncover this mysterious phenomenon. Along the way she meets scientists, researchers, influencers, and volunteers who shed light on the effects of our rabid plastic consumption and learns the problem is more insidious than we could have ever imagined.

Headwaters of Incarnate Word Film Second Showing: Renewal (AT)

Tue, February 2, 11:45 PM – Wed, February 3, 12:45 AM
UIW Mabee Library, Special Collections Room, 4301 Broadway, San Antonio, TX

Second showing of our January film offering, *RENEWAL* Contact person: Pamela Ball at pamela.ball@amormeus.org or 210-842-7967. Seats are limited. Please call Pamela if you plan to attend. Admission is free. *RENEWAL* is the first feature-length documentary film to capture the vitality and diversity of today's religious-environmental activists. From within their Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Muslim traditions, Americans are becoming caretakers of the Earth. With great courage, these women, men, and children are re-examining what it means to be human and how we live on this planet. Their stories of combating global warming and the devastation of mountaintop removal, of promoting food security, environmental justice, recycling, land preservation, and of teaching love and respect for life on Earth are the heart of *RENEWAL*.

Certified Arborist Prep Training (AT)

Fri, February 5, 9 AM – 4 PM

Weekly on Friday, until Feb 26, 2016

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

February 5, 12, 19, & 26. This course will help prepare professional arborists to take the ISA Certified Arborist examination. Nonprofessionals are invited to attend to gain a better understanding of the benefits of trees and develop their tree ID and tree care skills. Topics include tree biology, identification, soil science, water management, tree nutrition and fertilization, tree selection, installation, pruning, and oak wilt. Fee: \$250. For information, contact Nadezhda at deprograms@sabot.org. Course offered in partnership with San Antonio Arborist Association and the Alamo Forest Partnership.

Starting Out Wild: Rockin' and Rollin' (VSH if assisting)

Fri, February 5, 10 AM – 11 AM

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

Learn about rocks, clay, silt, and sand through stories, songs, and hands-on fun! 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 at nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.

Fire Ecology: How to Conduct a Prescribed Burn (AT)

Sat, February 6, 8 AM – 3 PM

Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium and Herff Farm Prairie, 140 City Park Road, Boerne, TX

Join a group of prescribed burn experts to learn techniques that make a prescribed burn safe and beneficial for wildlife and brush control. Top experts will discuss fire ecology, planning for a burn and introduce participants to safety equipment. Participants will take part in the process of laying blacklines to prepare for a prescribed burn and participate in a burn. Participants are also welcome to join us on Friday, February 5th to get additional hands-on experience laying blacklines. Presenters: Bill Armstrong, Dusty Bruns, Marsh Weiershausen Tuition: \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members, \$20 for members of the Hill Country Prescribed Burning Association. Register at goo.gl/7SKIUa

February Training and Volunteer Events

Bird in the Hand (AT)

Sat, February 6, 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 at Guadalupe River State Park for a morning of nose-to-beak looks at our native songbirds. 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).

Honey Creek at Night (AT)

Sat, February 6, 6 PM – 8 PM

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

Join Ranger Craig for a hike into the night side of Honey Creek State Natural Area adjacent to Guadalupe River State Park. Bring a flashlight and sense of adventure as we go in search of nocturnal goings-on of owls and other critters. Please meet at the Rust House inside the park promptly at 6 PM. This program is FREE with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). For more information, call 830-438-7653.

Kids ALIVE! (AT)

Sun, February 7, 11 AM – 1 PM

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

Join us for a wilderness survival class for kids! 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! Dress for the weather; bring plenty of water, a snack and sun protection. Program open to all kids ages 6-14; all minors must be accompanied by parent or guardian; no pets please. Reservations required and will be accepted through noon Friday, February 5. Class size limited to the first 20 kids who sign up. Sorry, no group reservations. Reserve your spot at friendsofge.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@friendsofge.org or call 210-688-9055; ext. 2009. Natural Area entrance fees apply; program subject to cancellation.

Project ACORN Field Trips (VSH)

Wed, February 10, 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 with 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.

Volunteer Opportunity at Guadalupe River State Park: Bird Banding Training (AT)

Fri, February 12, 9 AM – 3 PM

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

If you enjoy birds, join us for a training session that will introduce you to the science and art of bird banding. Volunteers assist with removing birds from nets and band birds after extensive training. We band birds throughout the year both for research and education. This training will review the history of banding, aging and sexing birds as well as spending time at the nets learning to remove birds in a careful manner. If you are interested in this training and are willing to commit to assisting, please contact Park Ranger Craig Hensley at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov.

Geocaching 101 (AT)

Sat, February 13, 9:30 AM – 11 AM OR 1 PM – 2:30 PM

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

Join our Park Rangers to learn how to use a GPS unit to geocache. Described by some as a “worldwide treasure hunt,” geocaching can be done in the park, throughout Texas – even worldwide. We'll provide the GPS units and instruction; you'll then practice your newly acquired skills on our practice course. This program is limited to the first ten families/people that sign up. Please email Ranger Craig at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to sign up. Please plan to meet at the amphitheater, located behind the Discovery Center. This program is FREE with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

February Training and Volunteer Events

The Mysterious Case of the Guadalupe Fledermaus (AT)

Sat, February 13, 6:30 PM – 8 PM

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

Ranger Sam has once again been called to the Park to solve a strange mystery. Sighting of unusual creatures have been reported and yet not even our Park Rangers know what it might be. Join us to search for clues using our GPS units. You'll have fun and learn a thing or two, as well! This program is FREE with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Nature Explorers: Animal Tracking/Geocaching (AT)

Fri, February 19, 9 AM – 11 AM

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

You and your children are invited to join us for our monthly Nature Explorers program. This month they will learn to geocache and then go on a treasure hunt of the natural kind as they search for tracks and other signs of the creatures that call the Park home. Designed for children ages 5 to 10. Email craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to make a reservation. Include your children's names and ages. This program is FREE with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). Meet at the Discovery Center.

Botanical Garden Native Plant Walks (AT)

Fri, February 19, 10 AM – 11 AM

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.

Who Goes There? (AT)

Sat, February 20, 9:30 AM – 11 AM

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

While we don't always see them, creatures of all kinds leave behind signs of their presence. Join our Park Rangers for a walk on the wild side of the Park as we search for tracks and other traces of the critters that call the park home. Please plan to meet at the amphitheater, located behind the Discovery Center. This program is FREE with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free).

Prowlin' for Owls (AT)

Sat, February 20, 7 PM – 8:30 PM

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 to 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 amphitheater at the Discovery Center and is FREE with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). Be sure to bring a flashlight and dress for the weather.

Native Plant Society of Texas - San Antonio: Presentation - UTSA's Monarch Research Project (AT)

Tue, February 23, 7 PM – 8 PM

Lions Field Adult and Senior Citizens Center, 2809 Broadway, San Antonio, TX

Tyler Seiboldt will talk about the university's monarch research project. Tyler is an associate research scientist at UTSA. As project manager, he oversees a two-year, \$300,000 species research grant from the Texas State Comptroller's Office to study the monarch butterfly. 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. www.npsot.org/sanantonio

Volunteer Opportunity at Guadalupe River State Park: Golden-cheeked Warbler Survey Training (AT)

Wed, February 24, 9 AM – 11 AM

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

Golden-cheeked Warbler surveys are conducted each March-April at the Bauer Unit of Guadalupe River and Honey Creek State Natural Area. Surveys are conducted during morning hours, typically from 7 AM to 11 AM. This training will get you up to speed on our methodologies and allow us to schedule participants for the upcoming season. Please contact Park Ranger Craig Hensley at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov to register.

February Training and Volunteer Events

Oak Loop Seasonal Walk: Sunrise Bird Walk (AT)

Sat, February 27, 8 AM – 10 AM

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

Leaders: Wendy and Stan Drezek. Expert presenter: Patsy & Alan Kuentz and Lora Reynolds. Walks start from the patio of the Urban Ecology Center. Most walks go around building (N & W), using the mulched path W along S side of Butterfly Meadow. Then turn N thru the middle of the original savanna to the Oak Loop Connector Trail, and finally around the Oak Loop Trail. Some events, e.g. Grasses may utilize mainly the savanna One walk, Soils & Plant Life, will use the Savanna Loop Trail and have a longer timeframe.

Archery in the Park (FUN)

Sat, February 27, 9 AM – 10:30 AM, 11 AM – 12:30 PM, or 2 PM – 3:30 PM

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

Archery is one of the safest outdoor activities and here is your chance to learn this wonderful outdoor skill at Guadalupe River State Park. You will have the opportunity to learn the skill of archery through a disciplined approach. We'll take the first 25 people on a first-come, first-served basis for each time slot. Please email craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov if you have questions. We provide all the equipment. Please note this is for persons ages 10 and up. This program is FREE with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). Please meet at the Rust House.

Agaves, Yuccas, and their Kin (AT)

Sat, February 27, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

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

Learn the chief identifying characteristics along with tips for cultivation and care for selected genera for this area (Agave, Yucca, Hesperaloe, and Manfreda). We will also briefly look at the two more tropical genera (*Beschorneria* and *Furcraea*). Instructor: Mary Irish Fee: \$20 (\$18 members) For information, contact Nadezhda at deprograms@sabot.org.

Stories in the Stars (FUN)

Sat, February 27, 7 PM – 9 PM

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

Head out to Guadalupe River State Park for an evening of stargazing with members of the San Antonio Astronomical Association. Following a presentation at the amphitheater behind the Discovery Center, you'll get a chance to check out seasonal constellations and celestial wonders through our telescopes. Meet at the amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. This program is FREE with a TPWD Park Pass or after paying the \$7 entrance fee (children ages 12 and under are free).

GCSNA Bird Hike (AT)

Sun, February 28, 8:30 AM – 12 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@friendsofgc.org or call 210-688-9055; ext. 2009.

Waste Not, Want Not Leap Day Hike (AT)

Mon, February 29, 9 AM – 11 AM

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

It only comes around once every four years so let's not waste it! Join Park Ranger Laura Horner for a special Leap Day hike to Honey Creek. You'll learn about the cultural and natural history of the area as well as spend time enjoying the natural beauty that is Honey Creek. Meet at the Rust House promptly at 9 a.m. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. This program is FREE with a TPWD Park Pass or after paying the \$7 entrance fee (children ages 12 and under are free).

Using the VMS Hours Program

Please use the following steps to use the new VMS Hours Program, which can be found at <http://txmn.org/alamo/record-hours-in-vms>

- Edit your profile and complete the Background Check and Liability Documents. This gives TPWD permission to run background checks. Too many have not done this yet!
- Choose the CATEGORY based on the Opportunity Category Descriptions Chart.
- Description – NO acronyms, NO project codes, NO location initials.
- Description – Include the location of the training or service project.
- Advanced Training – Need sponsor, title/brief description, and speaker.
- Have 45 DAYS from activity date to enter your hours.
- Need your User ID and Password? We need your dues and records update form.

For questions, please email Nancy Thoss at nancy4gardens@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER Tales— A Look Back in Time

What newsletter items did AAMN members encounter in past issues?

Jan 2002: Volume 6, Issue 1 – In her President's Message, President Thea Platz recognized **Deanne Kalinowsky** as **Board Member of the Year** for her work as newsletter editor; **Mary Frances Anderson** as **Volunteer of the Year** for her service as Membership Chair; **Eric Holmback** as **Volunteer with the Most Hours**, earning over 1300 hours, most of them at Government Canyon State Park.

Feb 2002: Volume 6, Issue 2 – **The Naturalist Calendar for February** includes the following entries:

- bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) are breeding this month, the litter (usually 3) will be born two months later
- the road kill of striped skunks is particularly heavy because of more activity including the initiation of breeding
- early spring forbs like 'scrambled eggs' (*Corydalis curvisiliqua*) are blooming
- plant bluebonnet (*Lupin spp.*) transplants by Valentine's Day

Master Naturalist Topics on the Web

Two blogs that are pertinent statewide were just posted on Houston Chapter – Native Prairie Association of Texas (HNPAT) website:

- “*Why Prairie Matters: Carol Davit's Eloquent Ted Talk*” at <https://hnpat.wordpress.com/2016/01/14/carol-davits-on-why-prairie-matters/> One can substitute Texas or Texas coastal prairie every time she says Missouri and almost all statements would be true.
- Also get a link to Kirsti Harm's blog and beautiful photos about NPAT's largest owned prairie - the Maddin Prairie in Mitchell County. Read about how you can visit. <https://hnpat.wordpress.com/2016/01/14/maddin-update-122015-kh/>

Check out our other blogs, including *Prairie Fever* by Coastal Prairie Partnership's (another prairie non-profit in the greater Houston area) new President, Cassidy Johnson. Index of new/blog items at <https://hnpat.wordpress.com/index-of-newsblog-items/>

San Antonio Parks and Recreation Natural Areas Stewardship Activities

2016 is an astronomically special year. One significant celestial event is the “alignment” of five planets—Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, Venus, and Mercury. From late January until about February 20, you can see all five planets at one time, and you do not even need a telescope! You do need, however, to get up before dawn. According to Jackie Faherty, a Hubble Fellow at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the lining up of the planets shows that “the planets are all on the same plane so that they formed in a disk around the sun. So it’s actually not just an awesome thing... it’s also a signature of the formation of the solar system.” For more information on where and when to look, see <http://www.npr.org/2016/01/20/463740367/for-the-next-month-5-planets-will-align-in-early-morning-sky>.

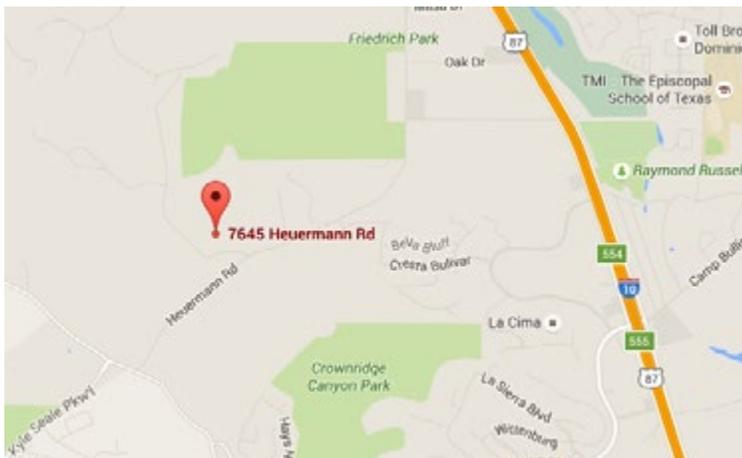
Another special thing about February this year is that it will have 29 days (one more than the usual 28). That’s because 2016 is a leap year. It takes the Earth about 365 days to circle once around the sun. A more accurate approximation is 365.242199 days—or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds. However, as the website <http://www.timeanddate.com/date/leapyear.html> points out, “our Gregorian calendar has only 365 days in a year, so if we didn’t add a day on February 29 nearly every 4 years, we would lose almost six hours off our calendar every year. After only 100 years, our calendar would be off by approximately 24 days!” By the way, according to <http://blog.dictionary.com/leap-year/>, the term leap year refers to the fact that in most years, “fixed dates advance one day in the week per year... With the insertion of a leap day, dates advance two days instead of one.” For example Christmas occurred on a Thursday in 2014, a Friday in 2015, and will leap over Saturday to fall on a Sunday in 2016.

Join us in service to our Planet Earth! See the calendar below for opportunities, and contact Jayne Neal at Jayne.Neal@sanantonio.gov or 210-207-3785 if you have questions.

Come prepared to do trail maintenance, tree protection, landscape maintenance, and/or removal of small junipers. Please bring leather work gloves. Construction on Babcock between Camp Bullis and Luskey may impact your travel route.

February 4, 8:00-11:30 AM Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa, meet at Jayne’s office in the Administration/Classroom building.

February 18, 8:00-11:30 AM Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, 7222 Luskey, meet in the parking lot.



Balcones Invaders News

We began our invasive plant eradication at Government Canyon in September 2015. We knew that we would find a few Chinaberry trees (*Melia azedarach*); however, we have been very surprised by the sheer number and size of the specimens!



Why are we finding them in this State Natural Area?

First, it only takes one berry (drupe) to germinate and begin an infestation. It is likely that the first plant grew from a bird-dispersed seed from a nearby homestead.

Second, Chinaberry is very fast growing, and can reach 18 to 24 feet in height in just 4 to 5 years. A mature Chinaberry tree can grow to 50 or 60 feet in height and 2 feet in diameter! Chinaberry is reproductively mature when it reaches the size of a shrub!

Third, in the areas of infestation, Chinaberry outcompetes native vegetation due to high relative resistance to insects and pathogens. Its leaf litter raises soil pH, thus altering soil conditions for native plants and seed germination.

Fourth, Chinaberry reproduces by both seeds and by root sprouts or from root collars. The drupes float, and are easily carried downstream during flood events.

Chinaberry was introduced in the mid-1880s from the Himalayas and Asia. Many of our volunteers remember Chinaberry trees in their grandparents' yards, where they were planted for shade. Since Chinaberry's introduction, however, it has become a major invasive nuisance. It is common in disturbed soil, lowlands, riparian thickets, roadsides, forest margins, and around homesteads.

Two years ago, the state of Texas added the Chinaberry tree to its Noxious Weeds List, which prohibits its growth or sale.



If you have a Chinaberry tree in your yard, please remove it! If you see Chinaberry in parks or natural areas, please notify the park manager. Every successful eradication reduces future seed production and dispersal.

In San Antonio, local volunteers are needed for eradication of 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, February 2, 9, 16 and 23 between 8:30 to 10:30 AM.