



# NEWS

Alamo Area Chapter

www.txmn.org/alamo

Volume 16, No. 6

Events  
Volunteer Opportunities  
Education & Training

June 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Liz Robbins

**2012 SPRING FLING** - The 2012 Spring Fling event was OUTSTANDING! Much fun was had by all; the music was great, the catered food & potluck dishes were delicious, the awards were inspiring, the silent auction was a success, and Peggy York drilled many a shingle onto members' tags. Special thanks go to Hospitality Committee Members and Chair, Nancy Brown, who made this great annual gathering so special!

## CONGRATULATIONS AAMN CLASS 30

The 2012 spring training class was the largest AAMN class so far. Of the 42 members who completed the course, four graduated with certification, of which one, RC Castro, also clocked in a second 40/8, earning him the 2012 Mexican free-tailed bat pin! Great work everyone. We look forward to seeing all of you out on the trails.

Photo by Tom Brotherman



**NEW CHANGES TO COH APPROVED** - The AAMN board of directors approved the proposed changes ([link](#)) to the AAMN Chapter Operating Handbook. These changes were initiated by the TMN state organization due to rising liability insurance costs. The following are two sections of the request sent to us about a year ago.

**Annually, through Texas Parks & Wildlife, Master Naturalist volunteers will have up to a \$1Million Personal Liability Insurance Coverage. The policy provides some protection for volunteers for injuries or death resulting from accidents during their service as volunteers for TPWD. Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers are volunteers for TPWD and AgriLIFE. This insurance is Excess Volunteer Insurance. It is secondary to a program participant's personal insurance (homeowners insurance). (Up to \$25,000 medical indemnity and \$2,500 accidental death, dismemberment or loss of sight). This IS NOT co-insurance.**

**The Chapter Board and appropriate Committee Chairs need to ensure that volunteers complete the TPW Liability release form to be covered. Chapters need to keep an accurate master list of volunteers in the chapter. This means dropping inactive volunteers from their roster and keeping track of chapter transfers and new enrollees—this is probably the single most important aspect needed in the event of defending a claim.**

Members of the AAMN board have spent many hours discussing and developing the language that would comply with the requests set forth by the state, the language found in the AAMN By-laws and the COH. I especially want to thank Linda Gindler, Nancy Thoss and Ron Tullius for their tireless efforts to bring this issue to fruition. If you have any questions concerning this issue, email Liz Robbins at [srobbins@gvtc.com](mailto:srobbins@gvtc.com).

Board Meeting  
June 12th  
5:30 pm  
AgriLIFE Extension  
Classroom #208

General Meeting  
7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Mr. Jacinto Madrigal and Dr. Elizabeth de la Portilla will look at the historical and current use of plants for medicinal purposes. (page 3 for details)  
AgriLIFE Extension  
Classroom #208  
3355 Cherry Ridge  
San Antonio, TX 78232

## OFFICERS

**President**  
Liz Robbins  
[srobbins@gvtc.com](mailto:srobbins@gvtc.com)  
830-336-2778

**Vice-President**  
Linda Gindler  
[ljgindler@earthlink.net](mailto:ljgindler@earthlink.net)

**Treasurer**  
Nancy Thoss  
[nthoss1610@yahoo.com](mailto:nthoss1610@yahoo.com)

**Secretary**  
Barbara Harder  
[bdjharder@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bdjharder@sbcglobal.net)

**Immediate Past President**  
Anton Hajek  
[tonyhajek@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyhajek@yahoo.com)

# NEWS FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Projects to be reviewed for approval as a Master Naturalist activity must be submitted on the Submission for Activity Approval form before the event. Forms can be obtained by contacting Pamela Ball, pball12@satx.rr.com, or from the AAMN website at: <http://txmn.org/alamo/join-the-alamo-chapter/activity-approval-form/>

## PLEASE REPORT YOUR HOURS !

### ACTIVATE YOUR 2012 GOOGLE.DOCS ACCOUNT TODAY

Reporting hours is easy on **Google.Docs**. See directions below. If you need help, contact:

**Last names A-H**

Nancy Thoss  
nthoss1610@yahoo.com

**Last Names I-M**

Howard Homan  
hhoman@satx.rr.com

**Last names N-Z**

Nancy Thoss (temporary)  
nthoss1610@yahoo.com

'One of a kind' recertification 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 a Mexican Free-tailed Bat. Milestone dragonfly pins are also awarded for 250, 500, 1000, 2500, and 5000 VSH.

### Frequently Asked Questions About Entering Hours

Many members have begun using the revised Google.Docs hours spreadsheet, and as with anything new, there are questions. Here are the most common ones along with the answer. Please do continue to contact the Membership Committee with questions. It is through your questions and experiences that they can continue to improve the system.

**What do I do if the sponsor or location is not on the pull down list?**

When the sponsor or location is not on the pull down list, type it in. Typing an entry overrides the list. When you do this, Google.Docs puts a small orange triangle in the top right corner of the cell. This is a warning only (not an error). Google.Docs is just telling you that you did not use the pull down list. Your entry is in the file, and it will be included. At year's end, the Membership Committee will review usage and potentially add or delete sponsors and locations based on number of times they were used. When you do key in an entry, please be consistent with spelling on subsequent entries.

**How do I record prep-time or close-out time for an activity?**

The volunteer hours worked getting ready for an activity and also the hours worked finishing the activity should all be recorded using the same Primary Type of Work as the actual activity. Examples include: planning, organizing, managing, preparing, set-up, clean-up, close-out or administrative tasks. These tasks may be performed the day of the activity or weeks leading up to or after the activity. The location may be different. Example: The preparation and planning is done at home and the actual activity occurs at a park or natural area.

**What do I do if the primary type of work is not on the pull down list?**

Use "other" when the primary type of work is not on the pull down. The types of work currently on the list were selected because they are the ones most helpful for chapter reporting. In the future, new descriptors may be added should reporting requirements change.

**How do I record sponsor when there is more than one sponsor?**

Enter whichever sponsor is the primary. The original activity application form gives clues, but unfortunately is not currently available for easy access. When a primary cannot be determined, then you can override the pull-down list and manually key multiple sponsors. (see question #1 above)

**What do I do if two "primary type of work" apply to the activity?**

Use the "primary type of work" that best describes the dominant work performed for the activity. When in doubt, use "other."

**COMMITTEES**

**Activities Information**  
Chair Pam Ball  
pball12@satx.rr.com

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**Community Outreach**  
Chair Lissa Martinez  
lissa@satx.rr.com

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**Historian**  
Peggy York  
peggy.york@sbcglobal.net

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**Hospitality**  
Chair Nancy Brown  
nan.bro@att.net

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**Membership**  
Chair Nancy Thoss  
nthoss1610@yahoo.com

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**Media & Technology**  
Chair David Reichert  
reichert@satx.rr.com

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**Newsletter/Web**  
Calendar  
Frank Ballard  
fm4459@sbcglobal.net

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**Programs**  
Chair Jessica Leslie  
jleslie01@hotmail.com

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**Education & Training**  
Chair Pam Ball  
pball12@satx.rr.com

Put something in every column A-F in each row.

The three columns in RED have drop-down lists.

Be specific !!

Use slash / like 1/17/2012

Choose from drop-down list; type-in only if not in drop-down list.

Click this little box several times to force the Scroll Bar to appear.

Scroll Bar

Last, First

No Yes

## MONTHLY MEETING

### June 12, Program 7-8 pm

Our June program promises to be a fascinating look at the historical and current use of plants for medicinal purposes. Mr. Jacinto Madrigal will share his experiences as a yerbero, and Dr. Elizabeth de la Portilla will provide the anthropological analysis of Mr. Madrigal's work and world-view. They have worked as a team for over twelve years, providing the insider's perspective and the outsider's analysis of a healing tradition that dates back over 500 years.

Dr. de la Portilla is the Anthropology Coordinator at San Antonio College where she also teaches courses in cultural and physical anthropology. She has been trained as a curandera and herbalist. In 2009 she published her first book, They All Want Magic: Curanderas and Folk Healing. She is currently working on a bilingual ethnobotanical study of San Antonio featuring the work of Mr. Madrigal.

Mr. Jacinto Madrigal learned about growing, preparing, and using medicinal plants from his mother and has been a practicing yerbero for 40 years. Raised in Villa de Fuente Coahuila in Mexico, he later moved to the United States. When he is not giving talks and workshops on medicinal plants, he can be found talking about and selling plants at a small flea market located near the streets of Ruiz and General McMullen. Plan to attend the June program for an exciting, inside glimpse into the world of healing with plants.

*Meeting Approved for Advanced Training*



Class 30 field trip/class project at Phil Hardberger Park. Savanna restoration.



## AWARDS SUMMARY

By Nancy Thoss

### Initial Dragonfly

Randy Baker - 30	Rene Castro - 30
Wendy Drezek - 30	Michael Gentry - 30
John Marrs - 23	Kent Page - 30
Keeley Porter - 30	Gary Rogers - 30
Betty Sutherland - 30	

### 2012 Annual Pin - Bat

Richard Adams - 27	Peggy York - 26
Mary Frances Anderson - 2	
Pam Ball - 18	Kathy Binetti - 27
Rene Castro - 30	Karen Davidson - 28
Diane Fey - 23	Robert Garza - 26
Aubrey George - 29	Jessica Leslie - 20
Jane Henry - 19	Roy Leslie - 24
Dotty Pledge - 29	Keeley Porter - 30
Liz Robbins - 17	Catherine Rose - 22

### 250 Hours

Kay Cage - 25	Stan Drezek - 27
Jody Ruhl - 27	

### 500 Hours

Nancy Thoss - 28

### 2500 Hours

Jessica Leslie - 20

## CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

**Class 25 & State Rep.**  
Ron Tullius  
210-739-2566  
rvtullius@sbcglobal.net

**Class 26**  
Dwight Henderson  
210-496-5934  
dwight10@hotmail.com

**Class 27**  
David Reichert  
reichert@satx.rr.com  
& Evelyn Penrod  
epenrod@gvtc.com

**Class 28**  
Joe Novy  
novyja@gmail.com  
& Phil Minor  
minorpa@hotmail.com

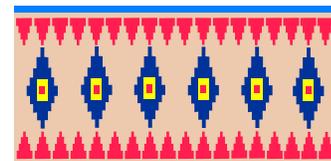
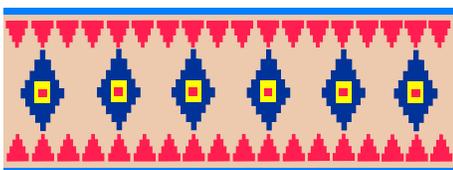
**Class 29**  
Tom Brotherman, electric\_water\_boy@yahoo.com  
& Damon Bartlett  
texaswildlife47@yahoo.com

**Class 30**  
Randy Baker  
Randy.baker@satx.rr.com  
Alba De Leon  
adeleon.tx@gmail.com

**Westcave Preserve Tours** ([map](#)) Saturdays, usually 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm & Sundays, usually 10am, 2pm & 4pm (call 830-825-3442 for details) The tour takes visitors from an arid savanna through a limestone crevice into a sheltered canyon of lush plant life. At the head of the canyon stands a 40-foot waterfall replenishing the emerald pool below. Register for programs by calling Westcave at 830-825-3442 or e-mailing info@westcave.org. Fee: \$5 adult, \$2 child or \$15 family. *Approved for Advanced Training*

## PHOTOS PHOTOS PHOTOS

We need any photos of AAMN events. Please take a camera on your outings and use it. Send the pictures to David Reichert at reichert@satx.rr.com. We use photos, when available, in the newsletter, on the web, in our scrapbook, and for special presentations.



## San Antonio Parks & Recreation—Natural Areas

### Medina River Natural Area Plant Surveys

June 18, 20, 25, & 27. 8am – 11am, ([map](#))

As part of a restoration project, Medina River Natural Area will conduct pre-restoration plant surveys this June on the following dates in June: 18th, 20th, 25th, and 27th. (Dates and times are flexible). You need not be a plant expert to assist us! We will only record data on the percentage of exotic grasses and the density of brush. Training on exotic grass identification will be provided. Dates for surveying during June are flexible and can be determined by the volunteer's schedule. Please help with this important project! For more information, contact: Peggy Darr, Nature Preserve Officer, 210-207-3103; or [peggy.darr@sanantonio.gov](mailto:peggy.darr@sanantonio.gov).

*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*

### SA Natural Area Stewardship

Thu, June 7, 8:30am – 11:30am, Friedrich Wilderness Park and

Thurs, June 21, 8:30 am-10 am, Crownridge Canyon Natural Area

We will be building and placing wildlife exclosures. If you have them, please bring wire cutters, a hammer, and wear work gloves. No worries if you do not have any tools or gloves, I have some to share. Contact Jayne Neal ([Jayne.Neal@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Jayne.Neal@sanantonio.gov), 210.372.9124)

*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*

### Wetland Detectives

Sat, June 9, 10am – 12pm, Eisenhower Park, Tx ([map](#))

We are all concerned about our wetlands and what is in our drinking water. This program includes a chance to meet up close and personal some of the critters who live at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Learning to identify them will give you some clues to evaluate the health of an aquatic system. We'll give some thought to what we can do to keep our water clean! Reservations are recommended; call 210/372-9124 or email [peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov](mailto:peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov). Suggested donation: \$3.00 per individual or \$5.00 per family.

*Approved for Advanced Training*

### Medina River Natural Area Nature Camp

June 18-22, 8:30am – 11:30am

Medina River Natural Area, ([map](#))

Campers will explore the basics of trees, native plants, mammals, geology, reptiles, birds and insects in a natural area outdoor setting. Hiking along the Medina River and kid-friendly, take-home nature craft activities will be included. Nature Camp is recommended for elementary-aged students (Target 2nd – 5th grade). Suggested Donation for one week of camp is \$50.00. Pre-registration is requested by Friday, May 25, and camp is limited to 15 campers. Camp Scholarships are available on request. To register for camp or for more information call (210) 207-3106

*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting*

### Medina River Natural Area U Rock! Get Outdoors Camp

June 25-29, 8:30am – 11:30am ([map](#))

Campers will learn about ethnobotany, geological forces of nature, Native American flint knapping, wildlife identification and birding with nature craft activities included. U Rock! Get Outdoors Camp is recommended for pre-teenagers (Target 4th – 7th grade). Suggested donation for one week of camp is \$50.00. Pre-registration is required by Friday, June 8 and is limited to 15 campers. Limited Camp Scholarships are available on request. To register for camp or for more information call (210) 207-3106.

*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting*

## Texas State Parks Need Your Help Now.

As Master Naturalists, many of us already contribute volunteer time in our state parks. But did you know that the state parks also need financial support?



Because of record drought, wildfires and the associated lower attendance that goes with these problems, our parks are finding it difficult to make ends meet. In

short, they need \$4.6M to stay open. Learn more about the challenge and how you can help from TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith at the [TPWD Website](#).

### ANNOUNCEMENT: A Resource Guide to Natural Areas Now Available On-line

Have we got a Resource Guide for you! A group of Master Naturalists and area experts have co-authored a 16-piece Resource Guide. You can find it at <http://txmn.org/alamo/files/2012/05/PHPGuide050512.pdf>, or go to it by selecting "PHP Brochure" on the main menu of the AAMN website. The top link on the page takes you to a pdf of the full 35-page guide. You can explore the table of contents; selecting any of the 16 choices brings you to that two-page section of the guide. Each piece is about 550 words and has two to eight photos illustrating the content.

Each piece (originally a Talking Point along the trail) explores a particular tree (e.g. Kidney Wood), area of interest (e.g. Birds of PHP), or ecological topic (e.g. Yucca and the Yucca Moth). The points are written with the general public in mind and are illustrated.

The Resource Guide originally was meant to be a guide to the Oak Loop Trail of Phil Hardberger Park West. In the process of developing the guide, we decided to expand it to be a more general guide, relevant to local Natural Areas and expanded to include material from a variety of presentations under the auspices of the Alamo Area Master Naturalists. Currently, additional pieces are being developed on Ethnobotany, Grasses, Agarita, the North Salado Riparian Area, and Insects.

This Resource Guide would not have been produced without the active participation of many Master Naturalists and benefits from being a joint project of the Alamo Area Master Naturalists, Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy, and the Sierra Club.

If you have any questions about the guide or ideas for new pieces, including one you might be willing to write, please contact Stan Drezek (493-0939) or [stanwendre@gmail.com](mailto:stanwendre@gmail.com)). Writing pieces for the Resource Guide is approved for VSH.

## Government Canyon State Natural Area ([map](#))

### Volunteer Resource Workday

Wed, June 13 & 27, 9am – 12pm, ([map](#))

Be a steward of a State Natural Area... we can't do it without you! Assist Natural area Resource Specialists with various resource-related projects such as biological surveys, invasive species removal, trail/road maintenance, research projects, and more! These workdays will take place from 9am to noon the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. If interested, please call or email Niki Lake (210-688-9055 ext. 292, [niki.lake@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:niki.lake@tpwd.state.tx.us)) or James Rice (210-688-9055 ext. 294, [james.rice@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:james.rice@tpwd.state.tx.us)) for details about projects and equipment needed. We look forward to working with you!

*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*

### Hike the Canyon

Sat, June 9, 8:00am – 11:30am

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; Natural Area entrance fees apply. Dress appropriately and wear sturdy shoes for hiking over rough terrain; bring two liters of water and a snack. Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower; 8:00 am – noon; subject to cancellation. For more information and to confirm program, call (210) 688-9055, ext 289.

*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting*

### Explore the Canyon

Sat, June 16, 8am – 12pm

Knowledgeable guides discuss the flora, fauna, natural and cultural history of this awesome natural area on this exploration. Length of walk and interpretive topic will vary, depending on the group. Open to all ages; group size limited to the first 12 people; Natural Area entry fees apply. Dress appropriately, sunscreen and hat recommended, and wear sturdy footwear appropriate for rough trails; bring two liters of water and a snack. Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower. No pets please. Subject to cancellation. For more information and to confirm program, call (210) 688-9055, ext 289.

*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting*

## Honey Creek State Natural Area

Guided Nature Hike each Saturday morning at 9:00, approx. 2 miles and 2 hours. Bring water and comfortable shoes. Meet at the historic Rust House inside Guadalupe River State Park. For details go to [www.honeycreekfriends.org](http://www.honeycreekfriends.org) or call the park at 830-438-2656. Park entrance fee is required. Donations to the Friends Group are appreciated.

Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area, 3350 Park Road 31 Spring Branch, TX 78070

Phone: 830-438-2656 Fax: 830-438-2229

Contact: Joan Nitschke, Friends Group, 830-816-8996, [jen10@gvtc.com](mailto:jen10@gvtc.com)

*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting*



## AAMN 4th Saturday Program, Geology of Hardberger Park

Sat., June 23, 9 - 11 a.m.

Come walk the Geology Loop of Phil Hardberger Park East and learn what the rocks and cliffs tell you about the history of South Texas.

*Approved for Advanced Training*

**Weed Wednesdays**, Every Wednesday till further notice, 8-10 am

Help remove Malta Star Thistle & Mustard sp. For information, call Gail Gallegos at 912-7509 or Wendy Leonard at 260-2604. Or e-mail [Gail.Gallegos@SanAntonio.gov](mailto:Gail.Gallegos@SanAntonio.gov) or [Wendy.Leonard@SanAntonio.gov](mailto:Wendy.Leonard@SanAntonio.gov).

*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*



Members of the AAMN Outreach Committee manned a table at the **Texas Public Radio Senior Solutions** event on Sunday, May 20, from 1-4 pm. That is **Lisa Franz** in the background learning about a new sustainable body disposable method being promoted by the UT Health Science center. **Liz Robbins**, showing off our AAMN display, smiles for the camera. Not pictured is **Howard Homan**, who also volunteered for the event and was busy taking pictures.



## Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

([map](#))

**Bird Count/Survey**, Sat, June 23, 8am – 12pm

Bird count/Survey is conducted every fourth Saturday. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing, including a hat, long pants, closed-toe shoes. Wear sunscreen and bring water! We can even loan you binoculars if you need them. For more information, email us at [mlac@audubon.org](mailto:mlac@audubon.org) or call (210)628-1639.

*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*



**WaterSaver Gardening Walks** at 10:00 am, June 1 & 16  
Learn how to create a beautiful landscape at your home and conserve water with a guided tour of the WaterSaver Garden exhibits. Participants also receive a FREE copy of the SAWS Landscape Care Guide. *Approved for Advanced Training*

**Beginning Bird Walks** June 16 at 9am-10:30am  
Enjoy birds in native habitats and bask in the relaxing atmosphere found in the Garden during a morning bird walk led by one of our experienced guides. Meet at the Carriage House. *Approved for Advanced Training*

**Native Plants Walk** Saturday, June 2, Highlights of the Texas Native Trails. Come explore the Texas Native Trails with a Master Naturalist. Meet at the Carriage House at 10 am. *Approved for Advanced Training*

For more information, contact **Sasha Kodet**, Education Director  
210.207.3270 • Fax: 210.207-3274 • [www.sabot.org](http://www.sabot.org)



**Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation (WRR)** ([map](#))

WRR offers many volunteer opportunities. Volunteers wishing to work hands-on with animals need to attend an orientation. We hold orientations at 2 locations: one in San Antonio and one in Kendalia. The SA orientations are on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month, the Kendalia orientations are on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. Orientations begin at 10:00 am. It is requested that anyone attending an orientation first contact the Director of Outreach, Jessica Rice [jessicar@wildlife-rescue.org](mailto:jessicar@wildlife-rescue.org) or by phone at 830-336-2725, x304.

Those wishing to participate without working hands-on with animals can help in other ways. There are periodic group opportunities as well as daily individual or small-group opportunities. Anyone wishing to become involved should contact Jessica Rice, using the information above.

**Update Your Contact Information**

[CLICK HERE](#) to update your contact information. Just fill in the form and click SUBMIT. With your permission, this information will also be added to the Chapter Directory, available to members who have submitted their information. For more information or to participate, send e-mail to David at [reichert@satx.rr.com](mailto:reichert@satx.rr.com).

**Invaders of Texas**  
A Citizen Science Program

**Balcones Satellite** - We know that humans continue to be the primary dispersal vector of invasive plants. However, once a plant has been introduced, the within-region dispersal includes wind, water, and animals. Of the three vectors, the research suggests that water can disperse propagules (any of the various plant structures that can give rise to new individual organisms) farther and more easily than wind can disperse seeds.

In our eradication of invasive plants in the Leon Creek Greenway, we find large clusters of Chinese tallow, Chinaberry trees, and Ligustrum. Throughout the South Texas region, periodic flooding of our creeks and waterways moves propagules quickly and easily to new locations. Each invasive tree that we eradicate reduces the number of propagules in the creekway, thereby increasing the resources available for our native plants to thrive.

No prior experience or invasive plant recognition expertise is required – just bring gloves and water and let us know if you are coming so we can have loppers and saws available for you. If you want to join us and receive a weekly email with details on getting to the exact location, contact Lonnie Shockley at [lonnie-shockley@satx.rr.com](mailto:lonnie-shockley@satx.rr.com).

Those on the mailing list will receive notification of specific working site locations and cancellation for severe weather conditions.

Detailed information on all the local and regional invasive plants is available on the Texas Invasives website at [www.texasinvasives.org](http://www.texasinvasives.org).

June schedule: Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:30 am  
June 5, 12, 19, 26 Leon Creek Greenway  
*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*



**Headwaters Sanctuary Volunteer Workdays**

Saturday June 9, 9-12noon  
Headwaters Sanctuary Trailhead (GPS: N29.4698, W98.4708), just north of University of Incarnate Word athletic fields. ([map](#)) Come learn about and help preserve the Sanctuary that contains the famous Blue Hole, the source of the San Antonio River. We need volunteers to remove invasive species, which helps return the Sanctuary to a more native state.

To get on our e-mail list please contact Howard S. Homan at [howard.homan@gmail.com](mailto:howard.homan@gmail.com) or Director Helen Ballew [helen@headwaterscoalition.org](mailto:helen@headwaterscoalition.org).

*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*



### CNC Volunteer Workday

Sat, June 9, 9am – 12pm, ([map](#))  
Bring family and friends to spend the morning pulling weeds, picking up trash and other to-do projects to help keep the CNC beautiful. Meet at the pavilion at 9 for your assignments.  
*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*

### Harvesting Rainwater and Solar Energy

Sat, June 9, 9am – 12pm  
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Road, Boerne, Tx and John Kight's Home ([map](#))  
Learn about living green! John Kight, engineer, rainwater catchment and solar panel owner gives the latest technological information and the most practical advice. Learn about design and materials from someone who has done it himself! The Kight home relies solely on rainwater and uses no well or outside water source. Their system comfortably supplies delicious water for all household and landscape needs. Kight's grid-tied solar-energy system is tied to a battery backup and provides enough electricity for normal demand during fall, winter, and spring. This system produces sufficient energy to power all of his appliances with the exception of the air conditioning system.  
*Approved for Advanced Training*

### Newsletter Policies

We try to publish all the material that we receive. Space is extremely limited in the newsletter. Longer articles may be published on the website. We don't publish articles that are political or that advocate particular policies. Event notices must go through Pam Ball. Only the Activities Information Committee is authorized to declare an event approved for AT or VSH, so please don't include this notice in your article. The newsletter software deals very poorly with pre-formatted material. Please don't use tables and block indents. Please include any pictures as separate jpegs. We use black 10 point Times New Roman font. Articles should be 250-300 words and fit in a half column. Event notices may be treated as calendar items. The editor maintains the right to edit or exclude any article. All editorial decisions are final and not subject to review.

### Darwin Exhibit-Family Days

Sat, June 9, 10am – 12pm, Witte Museum, ([map](#))  
Volunteers are needed for a small educational group. Contact Valeria Hellman at 210-357-1903. Also, ask about time, as what is listed may not be correct.  
*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*

### River Walk Garden Workday

**Second Friday of every month: 9 am - 1 pm, June 8**  
Volunteers are needed to cut, trim, and plant at the San Antonio River Walk Garden. Bring cutting tools such as shears, rakes, and clippers and also gloves and water for this workday. This is an AAMN project at the corner of Aubrey and Old Guilbeau on the Riverwalk (north of Durango on west side or river.)  
Lan Eng (830) 980-2300 or lanbceng@gmail.com  
*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*

### James Kiehl River Bend Bird Census

Tue, June 26, 8:00am – 10:30am, James Kiehl River Bend: Comfort, TX 78013 ([map](#)). This bird census is conducted on the fourth Tuesday of every month. It is sponsored by the Kendall County Partnership for Parks. The park is bordered by the Guadalupe River and has easy access fields with excellent wildlife habitat. For more information e-mail to [curione@yahoo.com](mailto:curione@yahoo.com).  
*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*

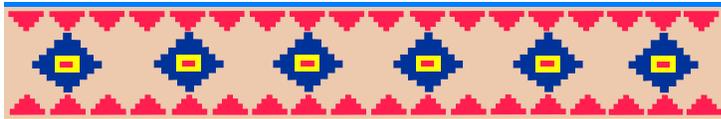
### Kreutzberg Canyon Bird Census

Tue, June 19, 8:00am – 10:30am  
Kreutzberg Canyon Natural Area: Boerne, TX 78006-7837 ([map](#))  
This bird census is conducted on the third Tuesday of every month. It is sponsored by the Kendall County Partnership for Parks. The park has three bird blinds that give a good view of some of the birds. The park also has a variety of habitats including river, field and ravine. For more information e-mail to [tmrandle@swbell.net](mailto:tmrandle@swbell.net).  
*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*



### Mission Reach Nature Challenge

Sponsored by the San Antonio River Foundation, SARA, and the Texas Nature Challenge. Sat., June 9<sup>th</sup>, 8-11 a.m.  
Meet at Roosevelt Park. This event teaches participants (ages 5-18) native flora and fauna, as well as basic concepts of ecosystems and conservation. It is a self-guided exploration of the Mission Reach, Phase 1 (2.5 miles roundtrip). Master Naturalists will not lead nature walks; they will be available to ID plants and birds and to help participants with the questions found on the conservation worksheet. If you would like to volunteer, send an e-mail to Karen Kimbell, [karen.kimbell@sariverfoundation.org](mailto:karen.kimbell@sariverfoundation.org) or to Ron Tullius, [rvtullius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rvtullius@sbcglobal.net).  
*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting*



### 2012 Wildlife for Lunch Webinar Series

<https://texas-wildlife.webex.com> to log on to the live webinars. For more information contact: Courtney Brittain, Texas Wildlife Association, (210) 826-2904 ext. 122, [www.texas-wildlife.org](http://www.texas-wildlife.org) or [cbrittain@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:cbrittain@texas-wildlife.org)  
June 21: Ranch Photography for Fun & Profit by John Martin  
*Approved for Advanced Training*

### Canyon Lake Gorge

#### Preservation Society Workdays for June

Mon, June 11, 18, & 26 and Tues, June 12, 19, & 26  
9am-noon. The first objective would be the gorge invasives. Please be prepared to work on land and/or in the water. Some useful items would be gloves, hat, water, safety glasses and water shoes.  
We will meet at the Gorge Preservation Society (GPS) storage building behind the USCOE office. For driving instructions, questions, or running late please call: Mark Henderson 512-217-4667.  
*Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*

# PHIL HARDBERGER PARK

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

for

## WEED WEDNESDAYS

Hold The Mustard & Yank the Starthistle!!

Starting May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Every Wednesday, until further notice, we need volunteers to help in the removal of the following non-native, invasive weeds (in many areas of the park):

1) MALTA STAR THISTLE 2) MUSTARD sp.

- We will meet from 8 am to 10 am and will pull weeds at various areas of the park.
- Call or email us for specifics on meeting locations as it may change from one week to the next.

Join us this Wednesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, on the west side of the park (off of NW Military). We will meet near the playground and pull and bag Malta star thistle nearby.

Thank you all for your interest in helping Phil Hardberger Park!!

For information call or email - E. Gail Gallegos, Nature Preserve Officer 912-7509  
[Gail.Gallegos@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Gail.Gallegos@sanantonio.gov) OR Wendy Leonard, Park Naturalist 260-2604  
[Wendy.Leonard@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Wendy.Leonard@sanantonio.gov)

Master Naturalists are  
volunteers dedicated to the  
conservation,  
preservation and restoration  
of our natural resources,  
promoting  
ecological education  
for all ages.



The Alamo Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists  
gratefully acknowledges the support  
of our sponsoring organizations:



[HTTP://WWW.TXMN.ORG/ALAMO/](http://www.txmn.org/alamo/)



Alamo Area Master Naturalist  
P.O. Box 160543  
San Antonio, TX 78280  
Return Service Requested