



NEWS

Alamo Area Chapter

www.txmn.org/alamo

Volume 16, No. 9

Events
Volunteer Opportunities
Education & Training

September 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Liz Robbins

CLASS 30 MEMBERS - Bonnie Carson, Alba De Leon & Daniel Young, helping with the Eastside Garden Make-Over Project, August 15!

Photo by Bruce Fried - Class 26

Send us your pictures. We love to BRAG!

SCHOLARSHIP OFFER - Are you attending the TMN annual meeting at **Navasota, Texas**? If you are and have not sent in your name to Liz, please do so ASAP. There is a small scholarship being offered to those attending. We will have a drawing for one lucky participant at the next general meeting, September 11, at 7:00 pm. Winner will be notified by email. Names submitted so far are: Anton Hajek, Josie Gonzales, Le Lynn Koch, Nancy Phillips, and Nancy Thoss. Good luck everyone!



AAMN BOARD ELECTIONS - November will be a busy month for elections, including our very own chapter elections. The nominating committee, chaired by Anton Hajek with members Wendy Thornton and Ron Tullius, will be submitting a slate of candidates to you in October. If you are interested in becoming the next AAMN chapter president, vice president, secretary or treasurer, please let Anton, Ron or Wendy know as soon as possible.

For more information on election procedures, click on <http://txmn.org/alamo/documents/chapter-documents/> and scroll down to "**ARTICLE V: Officers and Other Board Members - Section E., Election of Officers.**" Due to the chapter board elections, the November 13 general meeting will begin at **6:30 PM!** Please mark your calendars.

TWO POTLUCKS FOR AAMN MEMBERS IN SEPTEMBER!

Please join us for 2 special dates in September. On Thursday, September 6 the AAMN Hospitality Committee will welcome Class 31. Class starts at 12:30 pm with our lunch break at 2 pm, so bring your favorite side dish or dessert prior to that time, and join us for lunch!

On Tuesday, September 11 we're meeting at 6:30 pm to have a sandwich and salad potluck prior to the 7:00 pm general meeting. Please bring your favorite sandwiches, salad or dessert around 6:15 pm.

RSVP to Nancy Brown at nan.bro@att.net or Alicia Hoover at Auntalicia@aol.com

Corpus Christi Hawk Watch, Everyday in September, 8am – 5pm, ([map](#)), Open to the Public. The hawk watching event just 7 miles north of Corpus Christi has been approved for MN volunteer hours. Click the [links](#) to find out more about Hawk Watch International, CC Birding and all their research sites. If you have any questions, please contact: Liz Robbins - srobins@gvtc.com. Etiquette & Equipment - Binoculars. Wear comfortable clothes and dress for the weather. If you have a reclining folding chair, that would work. Bring insect repellent, also! You just show up between the days posted, from 8:A - 5:P. Introduce yourself, tell them you're with AAMN and you're there to help. They need you to look up into the sky all the time and announce when you see anything flying in the sky. Once you spot an object in the sky, don't put binoculars down till they tell you. You keep looking at the object till they run over to where you are and identify it. It's tons of fun, Liz Robbins *Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*

Board Meeting
September 11
5:30 pm
AgriLIFE Extension
Classroom #208

General Meeting
September 11
7:00-8:00 pm
Fire on the Mountain
(page 2 for details)
AgriLIFE Extension
Classroom #208
3355 Cherry Ridge
San Antonio, TX 78232

OFFICERS

President

Liz Robbins
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830-336-2778

Vice-President

Linda Gindler
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Treasurer

Nancy Thoss
nthoss1610@yahoo.com

Secretary

Barbara Harder
bdjharder@sbcglobal.net

Immediate Past President

Anton Hajek
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

Deb Balderaz
dbalderaz@satx.rr.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.

MONTHLY MEETING

September 11 Program: Fire on the Mountain: Davis Mountains Wildland Fire: History, Role & Research

Our September speaker is John Karges, the Associate Director of Field Science with The Nature Conservancy in San Antonio. His professional specialty is vertebrate zoology, zoogeography, and natural history, and tying it all to the conservation of special places: land, habitats and ecosystems. For nearly two decades, John worked in the West Texas program where he was land steward, conservation biologist, and regional program manager before moving to San Antonio in 2009 to take on a statewide biologist function.

John will talk about the Davis Mountains’ fire history and research. The Davis Mountains are a “sky island” in the northeastern Chihuahuan Desert. It is the second highest mountain range in Texas. Wildfires of 2011 and 2012 certainly were in the public eye, causing horror and amazement. Yet the mountains’ ecosystem is one of a natural wildland fire regime, and the species and natural plant communities have certain adaptations, responses, and resiliency to fire. We will focus on the natural role of fire in the mountains from the landscape scale to the responses of nature to the human dimension. The reintroduction of managed fire with prescriptions and controls for land restoration and the capitalization on even some of the benefits, results, and outcomes of the wildfires will all be braided together to tell the story of “fire on the mountains”.

Approved for Advanced Training

Guadalupe River State Natural Area

Call 830-438-7653 for program times and details or check out the park at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/guadalupe-river>. Some programs have fees and/or size limits. ([map](#))

Bird in the Hand, Sat, September 1, 9am – 12pm, Join us for a morning of up-close looks at the birds of Guadalupe River State Park. We’ll set up our mist nets at our bird feeding station to capture cardinals, chickadees and other local songbirds. *Approved for Advanced Training*

A Froggin’ We’ll Go, Sat, September 1, 8pm – 9pm, Join our Park Interpreter for a look at the world of frogs and toads. Together we’ll discover their amazing adaptations, learn about their life cycles, and which kinds live in the Park and Natural Area. *Approved for Advanced Training*

Bauer Unit Bird Walk, Sun, September 2 & 30, 8:30am – 12:00pm, Whether you are a beginning birdwatcher or seasoned birder, help us learn about the birds of the Bauer Unit. We will be conducting monthly bird surveys/walks to document the birds of this area. *Approved for Advanced Training*

Bugs-R-Us! Sat, September 8, 10:00am – 11:30am, From butterflies to dragonflies, beetles to all kinds of other bugs, we’ll spend the morning in search of our six-legged wonders with nets in hand. *Approved for Advanced Training*

Geocaching 101, Sat, September 15, 10:00am – 11:30am & repeated at 2:00-3:30pm, Geocaching has become a popular sport and pastime to more than four million people. Join us for an introductory and hands-on workshop on the basics of geocaching. We’ll provide the instruction, use of our GPS units and get you started on what is a wonderful individual or family activity you can do anywhere. *Approved for Advanced Training*

Honey Creek Bird Walk, Sun, September 16, 8:30am – 12:00pm, Whether you are a beginning birdwatcher or seasoned birder, join Park Interpreter Craig Hensley for a bird walk along the trails of Honey Creek State Natural Area. *Approved for Advanced Training*

Making of a Naturalist Series: Hill Country Wildflowers, Thu, September 20, 10am – 3pm, This workshop will provide you an introduction/refresher on the diversity and identification of wildflowers found in the area. The Friends Group is proud to offer these first in a series of natural history workshops for Master Naturalists and other interested people at Guadalupe River State Park. Each session will provide participants with a look at different aspects of the natural world. *Approved for Advanced Training*

COMMITTEES

Activities Information

Chair Pam Ball
pball12@satx.rr.com

Community Outreach

Chair Lissa Martinez
lissa@satx.rr.com

Historian

Peggy York
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Hospitality

Co-Chair Nancy Brown
nan.bro@att.net
Co-Chair Alicia Hoover
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Membership

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Media & Technology

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Calendar

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Programs

Chair Jessica Leslie
jleslie01@hotmail.com

Education & Training

Chair Pam Ball
pball12@satx.rr.com

River Walk Demo Garden Workday
Not held in July & August, Second Friday of every month: 9 am - 1 pm: Volunteers are needed to cut, trim, and plant at the San Antonio River Walk Demo 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

The Journey North fall monarch migration reporting season starts August 30. Please submit your findings to Journey North.

<http://www.learner.org/cgi-bin/jnorth/jn-sightings>

Seeing Monarchs? Let Us Know!

1) **WHEN** to Report? When you see a monarch! Report at least once a week, as long as monarchs are present.

2) **WHERE** to Report

<http://www.learner.org/cgi-bin/jnorth/jn-sightings>

3) **WHAT** to Report

Our fall maps are described at the link below. Please report:

- * Adult Monarchs
- * Monarch Eggs and Larvae
- * Fall Roosts
- * Peak Migration Events
- * Other Monarch Observations

About Fall Maps:

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/monarch/>

Hot Tub Naturalist, Anton Hajek

On August 18 the heavens opened and dropped six inches of rain on the hot tub. Ranchers and Farmers both want rain. But farmers want it at certain times.

Six inches of rain cannot be absorbed by the earth in that short of time. Some of it came into my garage. Some of it flooded the barn and moved the corks again, reaching 6 to 10 inches of depth.

The tanks (earthen ponds) fill up.

Some unfortunate things happen like moving top soil from the farm to a bar ditch. That top soil is not replaced.

But some water makes it down stream to the estuaries at the coast where it reduces salinity and provides flushing action. Perhaps much needed.

Westcave Preserve Tours ([map](#)) Saturdays, usually 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4 pm & Sundays, usually 10am, 2pm & 4pm (call 830-825-3442 for details) Register for programs by calling Westcave at 830-825-3442 or e-mailing info@westcave.org. Fee: \$5 adult, \$2 child or \$15 family.

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Project Wild/ Aquatic Wild Work-

shop Sat, September 15, 8am – 6pm
 Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center, 1300 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring TX ([map](#))

FEATURES •Conservation & educational activities emphasizing habitat and wildlife. •Ideally suited to nature and environmental education •Games and activities can be used for troop pack and den meetings. •Have also been used at council and district camporees. •Can be tied to Scout advancement. •Participants receive two books with over 160 activities. •Also receive considerable supporting materials. •Teachers can also receive TEEAKS credit for each training attended
COST ** is \$35 per person and includes lunch
 The first 20 registrants, based on receipt of registration forms and payment, will have their fee reduced to \$15 thanks to a grant from BP! Space is limited to 25 on a first come, first served basis. Registration **DEADLINE** is September 4. Need more information? Email Glenn R Buckley: grbuckley419@comcast.net Or call Teri MacArthur: 281.364.4225 (9am – 5pm) *Approved for Advanced Training*

West Nile and Mosquito Program

Sept 6th - 12pm-1:30pm - Central Public Library, 600 Soledad. Please RSVP at

www.mysapl.org

Sept 6th - 7-8:30pm - San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 North New Braunfels Avenue. Please RSVP with Molly, me-keck@ag.tamu.edu.

Sept 13th - 10-11:30am - Central Public Library, 600 Soledad. Please RSVP at

www.mysapl.org

Mosquito and West Nile 101 - Learn mosquito biology, breeding sites, where they hide, how to manage and prevent them and the basics of West Nile and how to protect yourself. Please RSVP, space fills up quickly. These programs may be your last chance this West Nile season to attend an educational seminar on the subject through Texas AgriLife Extension.

Molly Keck, MS, BCE, Integrated Pest Management Program Specialist, Board Certified Entomologist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Bexar County, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 212, San Antonio, TX 78230, 210-467-6575

Approved for Advanced Training

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Class 25 & State Rep.

Ron Tullius
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Class 26

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 & Evelyn Penrod
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Class 30

Randy Baker
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 Alba De Leon
adeleon.tx@gmail.com

2012 Wildlife for Lunch Webinar Series

<https://texas-wildlife.webex.com>

to log on to the live webinars.

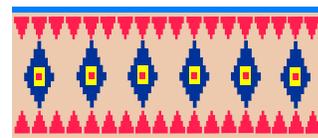
For more information contact: Courtney Brittain, Texas Wildlife Association, (210) 826-2904 ext. 122, www.texas-wildlife.org or cbrittain@texas-wildlife.org
 September 20, Noon till 1pm: Deer Nutrition, Dave Hewitt

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ALAMO AREA
 T E X A S



Master
 Naturalist™
 Founding Chapter



www.sanaturalareas.org

Many COSA-NA events have size limits &/or fees. For details or to register, contact Peggy Spring at 210.207.5320 or peggy.spring@sanantono.gov

Nature Walk, Crownridge Canyon, Sept. 1, 9-11am

Master Naturalist Ron Tullius will lead this hike concentrating on trees, their bark, leaves, and growth habits.

Eisenhower Park, Second Saturday, Fossils 101, Sept. 8, 10-noon, Local amateur paleontologists will introduce you to fossils found in Texas, will explain how fossils form, and give participants an opportunity to examine many specimens.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting

Eisenhower Park Explore class, September 17, 9:30-11:30, Topics to be announced soon. *Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting*

Docent Training, Sept. 19, 9:30-11:30, We will have a Fall Fun and Training to kick off the school year. We will discuss/play with some of the material for the October Explore classes and other events and eat. This will also hopefully be an opportunity to meet some new people from the current MN class – I will be speaking to them the week before about volunteering in the Natural Areas – and eat. We'll take a look at the new materials I have for teaching about the sun and think of ways to use them and eat. It will be a nice chance to visit and catch up from summer activities and did I mention eating? *Approved for Advanced Training*

Growing Up Wild, Second Saturday Program, Eisenhower Park, August 11, 10:00-noon. This program, targeted at children ages 3-7 and their families, is filled with nature games, crafts, hands-on displays and other activities. Don't miss this chance to learn about rocks, animals, plants and more—and also have fun! Reservations suggested. Call 210.207.5320 or email peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov. \$3 donation suggested, max \$5/family. *Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting*

Project Wild, Eisenhower Park, Sept 24, 25, 26, & 27, times to be determined later, Collaborative effort with UTSA to train pre-school teachers—hike leaders needed

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting

Science Day in the Park, Live Oak City Park, September 27, morning, 4th annual event with Crestview Elementary

San Antonio Parks and Recreation-Natural Areas Stewardship Activities

See the calendar below for activities I think are doable, even in the heat. Questions? Contact Jayne Neal (Jayne.Neal@sanantonio.gov, 210.207.5319).

Thurs., Sept 6 & 13 (& possibly 20 & 27), 8:30 am- 11:30 am

Meet in the parking lot at Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa. Planners and strategists especially welcome. We have barbed wire fences to dismantle and take to a removal point. If you have them, please bring fence cutters, fencing pliers, bolt cutters, and wear leather work gloves. No worries if you do not have tools or gloves, I have some to share.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

Medina River Natural Area, Sept 29, 9-11am, Help beautify your natural area. Plant native and remove non-native plants. Pick up trash, remove weeds, and spread mulch. For Information, call 210.207.3106

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

REWIND Event at the San Antonio River Mission Reach

SARA offers ecosystem field trips to local students under a grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife with support from Alamo Area Master Naturalists. The most recent event was held for almost 100 students in the St. Phillips College Prep Program in late July.



Students rotate through several stations including geo-caching, a service project, and a river improvements/nature hike. The latter is conducted by master naturalists, who lead the students on a mile-long walk along the Mission Reach, Phase I at Roosevelt Park. Students learn about weirs, embayments, and riffles. They view photographs to see the "before and after" of ecosystem restoration efforts. They identify birds, turtles, and plants. They are familiar with the state bird, flower, and tree, but with lips-pursed and eyes-scrunched, they are stumped at the name of the state grass.

Other topics for discussion include *succession* and *symbiotic relationships*. Students and their teachers are delighted to learn about the phosphorescent rocks at the footbridge called "UP on the ON," by San Antonio artist Mark Schlesinger. They exclaim at the numerous crayfish pincers and carapaces at the river landing.

The stealthy movements of herons on the hunt and the uplifted cormorant wings drying in the wind are additional attractions.

SARA offers docent-training opportunities for master naturalists for the Mission Reach project as well as for parks and projects downstream, including Jackson Nature Park near Stockdale.

Seed Grants

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in partnership with [Native American Seed](http://www.nativeamericanseed.org) awards grants of seed (Seed Grants) to Texas schools (K-12) that support the Wildflower Center's mission to increase the sustainable use and conservation of native wildflowers, plants and landscapes. Seed grants can be used to establish wildflower demonstration areas, to enhance existing wildflower sites, or in other educationally directed projects. Seed Grant recipients will receive a gift certificate of "Seed Money" to purchase seed from Native American Seed valued at \$50.00.

For more information visit <http://www.wildflower.org/wildflowers/>.



AWARDS SUMMARY

By Nancy Thoss

Initial Dragonfly

Sarah Key - 30 Terry Walworth - 30

2012 Recertification Pin (Bat)

Nancy Brown - 21 Kim Carrell - 24
Julie Croisant - 30 Sharon Kilmer - 27
Kim Smith - 28 Jane Whitaker - 30

250 Hours Dragonfly

Kim Carrell - 24 Bob Hamilton - 18

2012 Rain To Drain Public Field Trip

Sat, September 15, 8:30am – 5:00pm, Meeting location will be provided after registration ([map](#)). If you're interested in learning more about where your drinking water comes from and where it goes “after the flush”, consider joining SAWS Education Team for the Rain to Drain Community Field Trip. The full day training begins with a discussion of the Edwards Aquifer, followed by a field trip to Stone Oak Park where participants view Bear Cave and Cub Cave, which are two groundwater recharge features. Next, participants learn about the workings of the San Antonio water system and take a field trip to the SAWS Maltsberger Pump Station to view the five million gallon storage tank, water pumps and related activities. The concluding activity is a discussion of the physical, biological and chemical treatment of Wastewater with a field trip to the SAWS Dos Rios Water Recycling Center. At this site, participants observe sewage entering the plant and fresh effluent leaving the plant as it enters the confluence of the Medina and San Antonio Rivers. These field trips are only available for ages 18 years and older. To register, please contact Greg Wukasch at gwukasch@saws.org. *Approved for Advanced Training*

Acorn Project Volunteer Opportunity (VSH)

Sat, September 22, 9am – 12pm, Peggy Carnahan Elementary School, 6839 Babcock Rd, San Antonio, Tx ([map](#)), AAMN volunteers are needed. Carnahan Elementary will host the Acorn Project: our annual planting of seedling trees as a community outreach, service project. Using only native trees grown by students from the seeds of local forest giants, the planting area will be just north of Earl Scott Pond near the Buddy Calk Trailhead in the Leon Creek Greenway.. The activity will begin in front of Carnahan Elementary with a basic lesson in tree planting, followed by a walk across the street to the planting site selected for a joint study by City of San Antonio Arborist and Texas Master Naturalist Michael Nentwich. Contact Info: Kent Page Acorn Project Coordinator Northside ISD Science Specialist Peggy Carnahan Elementary School Alamo Area Master Naturalist: certified member Science Academic Support Teacher Peggy Carnahan Elementary 6839 Babcock Rd 78249 397-5850 ext 3142

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours



Oak Loop Seasonal Walk, Sept 22, 8-9:15am, Stan & Wendy Drezek will lead this nature hike.

National Public Lands Day, Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30. - 2 pm PHP West (NW Military), Savanna Restoration, 8-noon, bring gloves & pliers to help plant native grasses

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

Farm to Fork, 11am-2pm, Spend an early fall afternoon at Phil Hardberger Park savoring healthy edibles, listening to live music, learning and participating in educational programs.



Inner City Outings Program

The Sierra Club has chartered an Inner City Outings program for San Antonio. Any Master Naturalist can participate. They should contact Anne Pearson, Inner City Outings Chair at ico.sanantonio@yahoo.com. Anne is holding regular monthly meetings and will schedule trainings and outings.

Approved for Advanced Training and Volunteer Service Hours



Beekeeping Basics, Fri, September 28, 9am – 3pm

Bexar County Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Ste 208, San Antonio, Tx ([map](#))

Texas AgriLife Extension, Bexar County Master Gardeners and local Texas Beekeepers Mike and Travis Cole are providing a Beekeepers Basics program. This program is for anyone who is interested in beekeeping and/ or learning how to start your own bee hives for pleasure, environmental stewardship or to enhance pollination on in your garden. This program is meant for first-time beekeepers, presented by experienced beekeepers and entomologists. During this course, we will cover the basics of bees and beekeeping, including: bee biology, beekeeping basics, laws and regulations of beekeeping, diseases and viruses of bees. A hands-on field day to a beekeeper's yard in Adkins, TX will be held September 29th. Attendance is highly recommended—this is where you will learn the most about beekeeping! Must sign a medical release waiver to participate. Bee suit provided, if you have your own protective equipment, please bring. Space limited to the first 30 paid registrants. Please register by September 10th.

Approved for Advanced Training



Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

([map](#))

Bird Count/Survey, Sat, September 22 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 or call (210)628-1639.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours



The Eradicator Calculator: Documenting Volunteer Impact on Invasive Plants Species: During the past three years, the members of the Balcones Satellite have spent more than 1600 volunteer hours eradicating more than 18,000 plants in our natural areas, preserves and greenways. The value of our volunteer hours is almost \$35,000! Until now, we have reported our eradication efforts locally, but there has been no centralized database of volunteer hours.

A new tool has been developed by the Invaders of Texas program (www.texasinvasives.org) to ensure that volunteer-based invasive species eradication efforts (e.g. volunteer hours and cost of materials) is documented. The tool is called The Eradicator Calculator. It is designed to collect aggregate data on the amount of time and money spent on controlling invasive species. Our local satellite has entered historical eradication data from the past three years to help build the database. Our data and data from other Invaders satellites will help state decision-makers understand the costs of control efforts.

Why do we need this? Although there are many exotic invasives in Texas that are rapidly replacing native species, only a few are on the official state list. *Arundo donax* and Chinese tallowtree are on the official list and thus cannot be grown and sold. Others such as *ligustrum*, *nandina*, and certain subspecies of *lantana* are not on the list and continue to be available commercially. The continued promotion of these unlisted invasives reduces the efficacy of our efforts. To add an invasive plant on the official list, evidence of the economic and biologic harm caused by the species must be submitted with the request.

In San Antonio, local volunteers are needed for eradication of invasive plants in the Leon Creek Greenway. 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. We work for two hours every Tuesday morning. If you want to join us and receive a weekly email with details on getting to the exact location, contact Lonnie Shockley at lonnieshockley@satx.rr.com.

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

September schedule: Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:30 am on the Leon Creek Greenway

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

For more information on all programs, contact Sasha Kodet, Education Director at sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov or 210.207.3270 • Fax: 210.207-3274 • www.sabot.org, ([map](#)) Some programs have fees and size limits.

Urban Plant Dynamics, Sat, September 8, 9:00am – 11:30am, The Alamo Sierra Club invites you to a guided tour at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens. Paul Cox will highlight 'UrbanPlant Dynamics' and provide both plant and SABOT history. Limited to 15. *Approved for Advanced Training*

Focus on Native Plants, Wed, September 12, 1pm – 5pm
Learn about popular plants available in the local nursery trade that are native to the San Antonio area. You will also learn which plants attract certain wildlife so creating a themed garden, such as a hummingbird garden, will be an easy challenge. Instructor: Judit Green. Class Fee: \$20.

Approved for Advanced Training

Plant Propagation, Thu, September 13, 9am – 11am
Learn the techniques our horticulturists and volunteers use to propagate plants in the Garden. Participants will make their own cuttings to take home and have the opportunity to explore the greenhouse and purchase some of the beautiful plants expertly cultivated by the San Antonio Botanical Society Plant Sale Instructor: Stephanie Jones. Fee: \$20/class.

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Native Plant Walk, Fri, September 14, 10:00am – 11:30am
Seasonal Highlights. Explore our 11-acre Texas Native Trail with a Master Naturalist! Stroll along the Hill Country Trail in search of Texas snowbells, mountain laurel, and other plants adapted to the rocky, alkaline soils. On the shaded walk around the lake in our East Texas Pineywoods, you'll observe acid-loving woodland species such as magnolia, sweetgum, and sassafras. The South Texas Trail showcases dryland trees and shrubs such as mesquite, huisache, cenizo, ebony, and sotol. *Approved for Advanced Training*

Beginning Bird Walks, Saturday September 15 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

WaterSaver Walk, Saturday, September 15, 10am – 12pm,
Sponsored by the San Antonio Water System. Looking for ideas about how to have a beautiful landscape at your home AND conserve water? Wondering what plants grow best in San Antonio soils and are the most efficient water users? Get answers to your landscaping questions and receive a FREE copy of the San Antonio Water System's Landscape Care Guide.

Approved for Advanced Training

Native Plant Landscape Design, Wed, September 19, 1pm – 5pm.
Native plants and special design features can create a beautiful landscape that also creates a haven for interesting birds and butterflies. A short hike through the Botanical Garden will allow participants to see plants in nature and to look at various groupings and bed shapes for design ideas. Instructor: Judit Green. Fee: \$20. *Approved for Advanced Training*

A Primer to Plant Evolution, Fri, September 21, 12:00pm – 1:30pm, Dr. Kelly Lyons of Trinity University will provide an overview of the basic adaptations that paved the way for success of contemporary terrestrial plant species. In a short walk through 2500 million years, attendees will learn about the adaptations that allowed plants to move from aquatic to terrestrial ecosystems, grow taller than their neighbors, supply sustenance for and protect offspring, and co-opt the services of animals. Fee: \$15.

Approved for Advanced Training



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

Volunteer Resource Workday

Wed, September 12 & 26, 9am – 12pm, ([map](#))
Assist Natural Area Resource Specialists with various resource-related projects such as biological surveys, invasive species removal, trail/road maintenance, research projects, and more! If interested, please call or email Niki Lake (210-688-9055 ext. 292, niki.lake@tpwd.state.tx.us) or James Rice (210-688-9055 ext. 294, james.rice@tpwd.state.tx.us) for details about projects and equipment needed.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

Hike the Canyon

Sat, September 8, 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. 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, September 15, 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. 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

Birding for Beginners: Observing The Fall Migration, Sat, September 29, 8:30am – 11:30am ([map](#))

Whether you're just starting out or simply need a little coaching, if you've ever wanted to know more about birds and the fun of bird watching. Group size limited; participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian; no pets please. Meet at the rainwater collection towers. For reservations (required) or more information, e-mail fogcsna@gmail.com. Please include name of each participant, age if under 18, e-mail address and telephone number for each reservation. Natural Area entrance fees apply. (210) 688-9055, ext. 289

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours if Assisting

National Public Lands Day, Sept 29, 8am-2pm, Volunteers needed to help prepare a new campground and some minor trail maintenance. *Approved for Volunteer Service Hours*

James Kiehl River Bend Bird Census

Tue, September 25, 8:00am – 10:30am, James Kiehl River Bend: Comfort, TX 78013 ([map](#)). This bird census is conducted on the fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information e-mail to curione@yahoo.com.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

Kreutzberg Canyon Bird Census

Tue, September 18, 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. For more information e-mail to tmrandle@swbell.net.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

Monthly Bird Census at Joshua Springs Park and Preserve ([map](#)), Thu, September 27, 7am – 9am, Joshua Springs Park and Preserve, monthly bird census. For more information, contact: curione@yahoo.com.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours

CNC Volunteer Workday

Sat, September 8, 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



Docent Training for Canyon Lake Gorge Tours

Fri, August 31, 12pm – 5pm, Sept 7, 14, 21, & 28
WCRRC Recreation Center below Canyon Dam ([map](#))
Docents Needed for Canyon Lake Gorge Tours! Join our 2012 Fall training class starting August 31st. Volunteers needed year-round to help with educational tours. Learn new skills and make new friends! Docents will assist certified Gorge Preservation Society Guides with Gorge Tours. One year membership in the GPS is included in the training fee. More details and reservations: 830-964-5424 / tours@canyongorge.org, Deadline Aug 27th Check out our website -- www.canyongorge.org

Approved for Advanced Training



Headwaters Sanctuary Volunteer Workdays

Call for information on specific dates.
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.

Headwaters Sanctuary (GPS: N29.4698, W98.4708) is just north of University of Incarnate Word athletic fields ([map](#)). We will e-mail our fall calendar soon. To get on our e-mail list please send a note to Howard S. Homan at howard.homan@gmail.com.

Approved for Volunteer Service Hours



One or Two Nature Hike Guides Requested for
Sept. 23, 2012 at San Antonio Botanical Gardens and
Oct. 28, 2012 at Warbler Woods,
Converse at Wiederstein Rd.



AAMN Lynn Richards
leads a Picture Your World
nature hike last winter



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact
Sherry Christensen, Picture Your World Project
Coordinator, at 210-573-8943 or sherrychris@att.net

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



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T E X A S



Alamo Area Chapter

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