



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Liz Robbins

Welcoming AAMN Fall Class #33

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 3355 Cherry Ridge Room #208, Thursday, Sep 5, 2013
Class Begins 12:30 pm - Snack Break at 2:30 pm

AAMN invites all of you to come help welcome our newest trainees. As always, we hope you will share your favorite culinary side dishes, salads, breads, cheeses, and desserts on that day. Committee members will provide deli sandwiches and iced beverages for everyone and will begin accepting potluck dishes at 12 noon. Please RSVP to Alicia Hoover at her new email, AuntAlicia@aol.com, so we'll have plenty on hand for our new members and you! Incidentally, one of the questions on the application for new trainees asks: "How did you hear about the training program?" The majority are saying that you, the AAMN members, are the ones introducing them to the program and encouraging them to join. You are our strongest advocates and recruiters! We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing all of you there!

PHP Grand Opening - VSH

We look forward to seeing all of you on Saturday, September 7 at the park, beginning at 8:00 am. Assignments will be issued as you arrive, but remember that our main goal is that you come, tour the AAMN future home and enjoy the festivities. Remember to wear your green MN shirt and name tag. We hope to have a "sea of AAMN green" throughout the park on that day! (more on page 7 and page 8)

Congratulations, Craig Hensley Park Ranger

Guadalupe River State Park

Craig was awarded the 2013 TPWD Community Outreach Award. More information on the award can be found in this newsletter on page 3. I am not surprised at the wonderful news. Last weekend my granddaughter Luna and I spent a morning with Craig and his assistant Natalie catching insects. I could not believe the excitement and joyous shrieks Luna expressed every time a captured insect was released. Thank you Craig and Natalie for making learning so much fun! (more on page 3 and photos on page 5)



An AAMN Tribute to Eric Lautzenheiser - Congratulations on your Retirement!

Eric, AAMN wishes to thank you for your service to the City of San Antonio, its community, Friedrich Wilderness Park and especially the Alamo Area Master Naturalists. As a tribute to you, I am sharing the wonderful bio written by the Natural Areas staff. The great photo of you, titled "Eric in his Element," was taken October 16, 2009 by MN Lissa Martinez during one of the many class hikes led by you over the years at Friedrich Park. Thank you Eric, from all of us. We will miss you!
(more on page 2)



**Board Meeting
September 10**

5:30 pm

Note time & location
**AgriLIFE Extension
Classroom #208**

Note the Time Change
**General Meeting 7:00-
8:00 pm**

**Colonias Water Project
Oscar Munoz
(details on pg 3)
AgriLIFE Extension
Classroom #208
3355 Cherry Ridge
San Antonio, TX 78232**

OFFICERS

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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 2013 GOOGLE DRIVE ACCOUNT TODAY

Reporting hours is easy on **Google Drive**. 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

Unique 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 the Monarch Butterfly. Milestone dragonfly pins are also awarded for 250, 500, 1000, 2500, 5000 & 10,000 hours of VSH.

Eric Lautzenheiser by SAPAR Staff

C. Eric Lautzenheiser Jr. has been with the City of San Antonio for 26 years; his first position was Park Naturalist for Friedrich Wilderness Park, where he was also the Caretaker, living in a small trailer on the property. Eric was then hired as Director of the Botanical Gardens before being selected as the Nature Preserve Superintendent for Parks and Recreation-Natural Areas (where his title changed to Park Operations Assistant Manager in 2012). Eric has dedicated his life's work to preserving all Natural Area Parks, as well as to the protection of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge. He has been instrumental in keeping the Natural Area Parks natural and in managing all the Natural Area properties for maximum biological health. In doing so, Eric helped to maintain a place where people could go to relax while enjoying the peace and tranquility that only the Natural Areas could provide. Eric has overseen the beautification and renovation of the Friedrich Wilderness Park trailhead and entry areas (as well as being a member of the Friends of Friedrich), and many projects at Eisenhower Park. It was Eric who supervised the construction of Walker Ranch Historical Landmark Park, Medina River Natural Area and Crownridge Canyon Natural Area. He has also played a significant role in the development of Phil Hardberger Park (East & West). This is just a very brief synopsis of Eric's accomplishments during his years with the City of San Antonio. His unwavering leadership and commitment to the Natural Area Parks will be missed by staff, volunteers and all who worked with him. This is truly a sad day for the Natural Areas staff as we see off our beloved Supervisor as he starts yet another chapter in his life. There are no words that can express how much he will be missed. We all wish him the very best that life offers in his future endeavors.

Hospitality Committee

On **Thursday, September 5, 2013**, we will **welcome the 33rd class** to our Alamo Area Master Naturalist founding chapter. We get bigger, brighter and stronger with every class, spreading the mission of the work we do in the Alamo area. **We invite members to offer their culinary capabilities with side dishes, salads, breads, cheeses, and desserts.** Class will begin at 12:30 pm, with a snack break at 2:30 pm. The hospitality committee will provide deli sandwiches and iced beverages.

Please arrive by noon with your potluck contribution. The hospitality committee has serving-ware -- spoons, tongs, cutlery, bowls, platters, and paper plates.

JUDIT GREEN (TPWD): WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ISSUES IN TEXAS (AT) September 17, 2013

Presentation begins at 6:30 pm at the Witte Museum (3801 Broadway) (Free parking is available in front of the museum or in the parking garage south of the museum across Tuleta Drive)

There are many issues today that threaten the great wildlife diversity of our state, but the conservation community has faced seemingly insurmountable challenges before and risen to the challenge. Texas is blessed with a vast array of habitats and species. However, complex and daunting issues like emerging diseases, climate change, urbanization, insufficient land-use planning, emerging energy production industries, declining conservation funding, etc. are putting intense pressures on our state's wildlife populations. Judit Green, Urban Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), will be the presenter. She is a 24-year employee of TPWD with a degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Science from Texas A&M. She has been an Urban Wildlife Biologist in San Antonio for the past 19 years. For more information, visit the Wildlife Diversity Program's [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

COMMITTEES

Activities Information

Chair Pam Ball
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Community Outreach

Chair Lissa Martinez
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Historian

Keeley Porter
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Hospitality

Chair Alicia Hoover
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Programs

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Education & Training

Chair Pam Ball
pball12@satx.rr.com

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation (WRR) (AT/VSH) ([map](#))

Volunteers wishing to work hands-on with animals need to attend an orientation. We hold orientations at 2 locations. 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.** First, contact the Director of Outreach, Jessica Rice 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.

Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service –Reception Desk: (VSH)

Answer the phones, transfer calls, plus greet and direct office visitors to the assigned program agent. Call 210-467-6575, or email Aurelia.Hovell@ag.tamu.edu to sign up. Call for days needed. 9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm

2013 Summer Film Series

We wish to thank Programs Chair **TOM BROTHERMAN** for setting up this summer's film series programs. *GREEN FIRE*, *WHERE DID THE HORNY TOAD GO?* and *BAG IT!* were very informative films, and all who attended gained some great insights into some of the issues facing our environment today. Thanks again, Tom!



The San Antonio River Authority

If you have any questions or are interested in helping out, please contact Josef Kaul at jkaul@sara-tx.org or by calling 210.302.3286.



Training for Mission Reach Docents (AT)

for new section, Sep 4, 5:30-6:30pm at REI, 11745 IH-10W, suite 110, provides an introduction to ecological restoration along the Mission Reach and overview of the Grand Opening. Stay later for a showing of the film celebrating SARA's 75th anniversary.

Grand Opening of another section of the Mission Reach (VSH) Trained volunteers will be stationed along the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River to provide information to the public.

Congratulations to Craig Hensley,

the 2013 winner of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Community Outreach Award. The award was presented August 20th at a TPWD Employee Recognition Ceremony in Austin. Craig is the Interpretation Biologist at Guadalupe River State Park, where he plans and leads many wildlife and outdoor-themed educational programs for both children and adults. The award was in recognition of Craig's outstanding and engaging programs. If you have not yet been to one, check out the Guadalupe River State Park's web page to learn more about dates and times. I think you will find the programs informative, fun, and full of enthusiasm. In addition, Craig frequently needs volunteers at the park and nearby Honey Creek State Natural Area. He works with three Master Naturalist chapters (Alamo, Hill Country, and Lindheimer), so if you are interested in volunteering for one of Craig's programs, watch the AAMN newsletter for opportunities. Linda Gindler Reporting

MONTHLY MEETING

Oscar J. Munoz, director of Texas A&M University's Colonias Program, will talk about the Colonias Water Project. The Colonias Water Project's mission is to supply clean, inexpensive, potable water to those who have none. The group is made up of a wide array of people ranging from engineers to artists or to high school volunteers. They all come together to contribute to this cause by producing ceramic water filters. Here is their website: <http://tamuwaterproject.wordpress.com/>.



Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Workshop (AT)

1. September 12, 8am–4pm, The Grove Community Center and Mother Neff State Park, 5554 TX Highway 236, Moody, Tx ([map](#)) and
2. September 17, 8am–4pm, Guadalupe Blanco River Annex, 905 Nolan Street, Seguin, Tx ([map](#))

The workshop will include both indoor classroom presentations and an outdoor field portion at Mother Neff State Park to discover how streams function and the role of riparian vegetation in properly functioning stream systems by viewing the river in action. RSVPs will be required by September 6, 2013 and please remember to select if you would like the catered lunch (cost of \$10 cash at the door) or if you will bring your own lunch and drink. texasriparian.org. Online RSVP and Agenda: naturalresourcestraining.tamu.edu/schedule For more information and to register please contact Nikki Dictson at 979-458-5915 or n-dictson@tamu.edu.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

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210-416-1887
Susan Campbell
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Friedrich Wilderness Park ([map](#)), **Eisenhower Park** ([map](#)), and **Crown Ridge Canyon Natural Area** ([map](#)). Reservations are suggested; walks occasionally change. Call: 210-207-5320 or email peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov. Participants are limited. Meet near the restrooms. Some programs have fees.

Nature Walk (AT) Sep 7 – 9:00am–11:00am, **Blowin' in the Wind Walk**
In an area that lacks much surface water, the invention of the windmill to draw water from an aquifer was a blessing. On this hike visit the windmill at Friedrich Park, and you'll get a chance to try our new working model of a windmill pump! It may be warm, so don't forget to bring water to drink!

Planting Natives (AT) Second Saturday Program, Sep 14, 10:00am – noon, Judith Green, Urban Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife, will present this informative program. Learn about popular plants available in the local nursery trade that are native to the San Antonio area and attractive to wildlife.

San Antonio Parks and Recreation-Natural Areas Stewardship Activities September 2013

The schedule below shows the days that I PLAN to work with volunteers. However, because my move date from Rancho Diana to Friedrich Wilderness Park continues to be uncertain, I may have to cancel a work date. So, please let me know each scheduled date that you plan to work with us. That way, if I find out I have to cancel a date, I will send out an e-mail as soon as I know. If you have questions, feel free to contact me (jayne.neal@sanantonio.gov, 210.207.5319.)

Thurs., Sept. 12, 8:30-11:30 am, Meet at Woodland Hills West (WHW) entrance, 7649 Heuermann Rd. WHW is not open to the public, and has no water, restrooms or other amenities, so please prepare accordingly. We will repair/re-purpose wildlife enclosures, so wear leather gloves, and bring fencing pliers, wire cutters, and hammers, if you have them. I always have tools to share, so do not worry if you do not have any of your own tools. As an alternative, or in addition to our enclosure work, we will cut small junipers in our restoration areas.

Thurs., Sept. 26, 8:30 -11:30 am Meet at Friedrich Wilderness Park parking lot, 21395 Milsa. Our plan is to hike into Woodland Hills North (WHN). WHN is not open to the public, and has no water, restrooms, or other amenities, so please prepare accordingly. Our plan is to build wildlife enclosures, so please wear leather gloves, and bring measuring tapes, wire cutters, and hammers, if you have them. I always have tools and gloves to share, so do not worry if you do not have any of your own.

Viva Voluntarios (VSH) Sept 28, 8am – 11am, Medina River Natural Area ([map](#)) Help Beautify Your Natural Area! Plant Native and Remove Non-Native Plants. Pick Up Trash, Remove Weeds and Spread Mulch. For more information call 210-207-3106.

Essentials of Gardening (AT)

Sep 16, 12pm – 3pm, San Antonio Garden Center ([map](#))
Free and Open to the Public, 3rd Monday of Every Month. The first session usually starts around 12:15, the second session around 1:30pm. No advance reservations are necessary. \$5 donation appreciated to help cover expenses. (Bring your hand pruning tools and have them sharpened by "Dr. Fix-It" for \$2 each, a donation to GVST). For more information: info@gardeningvolunteers.org or (210) 251-8101.



Pins & Awards

by Nancy Thoss

Initial Dragonfly
Sharon Johnson - 32

Annual Recertification - Monarch
Mary Frances Anderson - 2
Kimber Briggs - 25
Kim Carrell - 24
Michelle Curry - 29
Jochelle Demmer - 31
Donald Ewers - 31
Roy Leslie - 24
Evelyn Penrod - 27
Patricia West - 31

500 Hours Dragonfly
Stan Drezek - 27

1000 Hours Dragonfly
Roy Yarnold - 24

NPSOT - Boerne Monthly Speaker

(AT) Sep 3, 7pm-8pm, Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Rd. Boerne, Tx
There is no fee to attend the meeting.

"Landscaping and Painting with Native Hill Country Plants: Four Decades of Living and Learning"
Our September speaker will be the Boerne Chapter's own Joy Fisher-Hein!

Joy is an artist, long-time NPSOT member as well as a class 7 Master Naturalist. Joy will be discussing the native plants she has used in her landscape and how she incorporated those natives that were already there.

You can also see some of Joy's work at <http://joyfisherhein.com>

Presentation begins at 7pm, but everyone is invited to socialize at 6:30! Questions? or for details: Please contact Emily Weiner, Public Relations, NPSOT - Boerne Chapter at <http://www.meetup.com/Boerne-Native-Plant-Society-of-Texas/> or emily.a.weiner@gmail.com or 210.259.7009.



Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension in Bexar County has recently started a FaceBook page listing events and posting some photos. The page is at <https://www.facebook.com/AgriLifeBexarCounty> They would appreciate it if you visited and liked the page.

Guadalupe River State Park ([map](#))

Call Craig Hensley at 830-438-7653. Click link to their website. There may be class size limits and/or fees.

Bird in the Hand (AT) Sept 7, 9:00am-2:00pm

You'll have the opportunity to learn about bird banding and discover for yourself the beauty of our songbirds, from cardinals and chickadees to goldfinches and doves.

Whooo Goes There? (AT) Sep 7, 7:30-9:00 pm

Join our Park Ranger for a walk after the sun goes down to see who's out and about under the cover of dark. We'll "listen" for bats, call for owls, and take a walk on the night side of the park. We may even do a little "mothing."

Damsels and Dragons Workshop (AT)

Sep 12, 9 a.m.-noon, Join Guadalupe River State Park Ranger/Naturalist Craig Hensley for an introductory look at the world of dragonflies and damselflies. A \$5 donation to the Friends Group is requested and can be donated the day of the workshop.

Batty about Geocaching! (AT)

Sep 21, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Join us and our friends from Old Tunnel State Park for a day of geocaching and bats! We'll offer three sessions of Geocaching 101 training, at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., with a twist. Included in our practice geocaches will be clues about the bats of Texas. Find the final geocache and watch an emergence of Mexican free-tailed bats!

Bats of Texas (AT) Sep 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

After a day of bats and geocaching fun, join our Park Ranger for a talk about these amazing creatures. Following a presentation at the Amphitheatre behind the Discovery Center, we'll go out with a bat detector and "listen" for these denizens of the dark.

Monarch Mania Celebration (AT) Sep 28

9:00 a.m.-3:00 pm, The monarchs are on their way to Mexico, and here's your chance to learn about them as well as our other scale-winged wonders. We'll have crafts, games and other opportunities to capture, study, and release butterflies of all kinds. In addition, you'll learn what you can do to encourage butterflies in your yard, including what native plants are best for monarchs and other species. Join us at any time from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the festivities and fun!

Prowling for Owls (AT) Sep 28, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Join our Park Ranger for a presentation on the owls of Texas. You'll learn who's who in the world of nocturnal predators, how they make a living and then head out in search of our local residents. Please bring a flashlight.

Medina River Natural Area ([map](#)) Call or e-mail to confirm-210-207-3106 or Susan.Campbell@sanantonio.gov.

Growing Up Wild! (VSH if assisting) Aug 21, 10:00am – 11:30am Growing Up Wild-Oh Deer! (suggested for Pre-K, 3-7 year olds). Discover predator-prey relationships. What are limiting factors that may change animal populations in the environment? Kid-friendly craft included. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per child. Call 210-207-3106 to register or for more information



Visit the web for [more information](#) on all programs, or 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.

Orientation for Botanical Garden Volunteers (AT)

Sep 6, 9am – 10am,

If anyone is interested in becoming a San Antonio Botanical Garden volunteer, we require they attend our orientation. Contact: Veronica L. Dallahan at 210.207.3261.

Beginning Bird Walks, (AT) Each third Sat., Sep 21, 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. Garden bird list [here](#).

WaterSaver Walk, (AT) Sep 6 & 21, 10am –noon Sponsored by the San Antonio Water System. Get answers to your landscaping questions and receive a FREE copy of the San Antonio Water System's Landscape Care Guide.

Native Plant Walk (AT) Sat, September 28, 10am – noon Explore our 11-acre Texas Native Trail with a Master Naturalist! The September walk will be on the South Texas Trail.

Grasses of South Central Texas (AT) with Floyd

Waller, Three Fridays, Sept. 6, 13, and 20. 9 a.m. – noon. Tuition: \$45 / 3 sessions. Registration extended to Sep. 3. What makes a grass a grass? How do you tell them apart? Learn from an experienced taxonomist about the basic structure and morphology of grass plants and how to identify the common grasses in our region. The first session meets at the SoL Center, to be followed by field trip locations. Bring a notebook and a 6-inch metric ruler to the first class; later, you'll need a water bottle, snacks, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Recommended field reference, [Grasses of the Texas Hill Country, A Field Guide](#), by Brian and Shirley Loffin.

Contact Lucy Burton, SoL Center, <http://solcenter@upsa.org> or call at 210.732.9927.



Craig Hensley receiving his award and leading an insect hunt.



Government Canyon State Natural Area

For details, call John H. Koepke at (210) 688-9055, Ext. 291, John.koepke@tpwd.state.tx.us or [Events](#). Reservations and fees may be required. ([map](#))

Hike the Canyon (VSH if assisting) Sep 14, 8:30-noon

Explore the Canyon (VSH if assisting) Sep 21, 8:30-noon

Invaders of Texas

A Citizen Science Program

Help Spread the Word About Invasive Plants!

During the past four years, members of the Balcones Satellite have trained 86 new citizen scientists, offered countless educational programs to interested groups and contributed 2400 volunteer hours to eradicate more than 21,000 invasive plants in our parks and preserves.

We are beginning to see the fruits of our labors. We often receive requests to assess properties for invasive plants. Newly trained citizen scientists are removing invasive plants in their yards and encouraging their neighbors to do the same. Native trees and shrubs are emerging where invasive plants were previously dominant. Several environmental groups in San Antonio are collaborating to share knowledge about management of invasive plants.

In one of our educational presentations, we share the exponential effect of the invasive plant Heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*). If one mature Nandina plant produces 300 berries, and if **two percent** of those berries germinate, they yield six Nandina plants. If **two percent** of the berries from those six Nandina plants germinate, they yield 36 nandina plants. At the same rate, those 36 plants yield 216 nandina plants, then 1296 plants, etc. It doesn't take very long for one mature Nandina to spread exponentially. The same example can be used for Malta star-thistle (*Centaurea melitensis*) Wild mustard (*Rapistrum rugosum*) Chinese tallowtree (*Triadica sebifera*) and numerous other invasive plants.

Now, let's use this same example to determine the speed at which new information travels in a community. If we educate a citizen scientist, Master Naturalist or interested neighbor about the invasive plant problem, he/she may spread the word to six friends, who each spread the word to six other friends, with 36 friends each spreading the word to six of their friends until thousands of members of our community are aware of the invasives challenge. Awareness translates to ACTION, and we are beginning to see tangible evidence of higher levels of identification and eradication in our community.

Albert Einstein said, "Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means."

Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little. Together, we can do so much."

THANK YOU for helping spread the word about invasive plants!

September Volunteer Eradication Schedule (Leon Creek Greenway) (VSH) Tuesday mornings 7:30 to 9:30 AM

We invite you to join us. No prior experience or invasive plant recognition is required. Just bring gloves and plenty of water. We have a supply of loppers and saws but welcome anyone who brings their own.

For details of exact location and directions, contact Lonnie at lonnieshockley@satx.rr.com



Headwaters Sanctuary Workdays (VSH) Sept 11, 14, 18, 20, 25, & 28 8:30am – 11:30am ([map](#))



The Headwaters Sanctuary

You are walking in prairie grass, a few Live Oak and maybe bison nearby. You are the first human to see it. Pure fresh water gushes six to twenty feet high, a fountain spring and a gift from the earth, all in the middle of a semi-

arid landscape. Sunshine and sky give the gusher a bluish tint, and you feel like you are finally home. In this spot, your descendants will leave evidence of their passing for more than 10,000 years - their stone tools, and their bones. When the Europeans arrive, they will name the fountain spring "San Antonio Spring," the original source of the San Antonio River. Its nickname will be The Blue Hole. Spanish missionaries and your descendants will redirect its water to missions and crops along the San Antonio River.

Today, the Blue Hole and part of the headwaters of the San Antonio River are owned by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word through their Earth Care ministry, the Headwaters at Incarnate Word. Much of the rest of the Sisters' original holdings are now occupied by the University of the Incarnate Word and its athletic fields; by the Village at Incarnate Word retirement center; by the Olmos Dam; by Highway 281; and by others. But fifty-three acres remain, and the Sisters are preserving it. It isn't a park; it's a sanctuary for people, nature and spirit. The Sisters created a corporation, Headwaters Coalition, Inc. (now Headwaters at Incarnate Word, Inc.), to preserve, protect, restore and celebrate this naturally and historically significant place; they named these acres The Headwaters Sanctuary.

The San Antonio Riverwalk is growing north and south. The north extension now passes the San Antonio Museum of Art and continues to the Pearl Brewery. It's called the Museum Reach. Imagine being able to follow the river further north to its original source; let's call it The Spirit Reach, at The Headwaters Sanctuary. Envision heading north from Brackenridge Park, leaving the hustle and bustle and entering an urban forest, a sanctuary for nature, spirit, contemplation and learning. Your first stop would be the Blue Hole, and then you'd head northwest to the main body of the Headwaters Sanctuary.

Texas Master Naturalists and many other volunteers are helping with this vision. They make trails, remove invasive plants, pick up trash, learn and teach.

Please visit Headwaters Sanctuary anytime; to get on the Headwaters email list, please contact Director Helen Ballew (helen.ballew@amormeus.org) or Howard Homan (howard.homan@gmail.com).





See [Web](#) for details.

GRAND OPENING of the
 PHP Urban Ecology Center.
 Please SAVE the date!
 September 7, 2013, 8:00am-noon

It is of the utmost importance that AAMN have a strong presence at the grand opening. We are encouraging all of you to attend and ask you to wear your AAMN shirt and name tag. This will be the first opportunity to visit the Urban Ecology Center and tour the beautiful buildings and grounds. Let's all come out and show the City of San Antonio our appreciation for offering us this wonderful setting for our new home. Because of you and all your hard work and volunteer efforts, AAMN members will be able to call the PHP Urban Ecology Center their new home.

Please make an effort to attend. I look forward to seeing all of you there. **See brochure on page 8.**

Liz Robbins - President, Alamo Area Master Naturalists

Superstar Plants (AT) Sep 7, 9am – 11am, Salado Creek Classroom ([map](#)) Presented by the Bexar County Master Gardeners. Learn what superstar, native and drought tolerant plants work best in this area. Bring your fall gardening and landscape questions. Take a native plant home with you. Kid-friendly plant craft included. Inquiries: 210-207-3106 or 210-226-8339. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per individual or \$5.00 per family. (All donations fund the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy)

Seasonal Oak Loop Trail Walk (AT) Sep 28, 8am – 10am West Side. Ethnobotany, Agarita, etc. Walk led by Gary & Nancy Rogers. Inquiries: 210-207-3106 or 210-226-8339. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per individual or \$5.00 per family. (All donations fund the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy)

National Public Lands Day - Green Spaces Alliance (VSH) September 28, 9am to noon. Volunteers are needed to assist Green Spaces Alliance with three NLPD activities: 1. Invasive plant removal. 2. Trash clean up. 3. Water quality testing. All activities will take place at the GSA Bulverde Oaks property (32 acres) located at the intersection of Loop 1604 and Judson Road. For questions, more information or to sign up contact Bruce A. Fried at Bruce@greensatx.org or 210-222-8430 ext. 305. “

Bird Censuses are sponsored by **Kendall County Partnership for Parks**, Contact info is at www.kendallcountyparks.org. All levels of birders are welcome. No potable water in parks.

Kreutzberg Canyon Bird Census (VSH) Sep 17, 8:00am – 10:30am, Kreutzberg Canyon Natural Area: ([map](#)) Every third Tuesday

James Kiehl River Bend Park Bird Census (VSH) Sept 24, 8:00am – 10:30am ([map](#)) Every 4th Tuesday

Joshua Springs Bird Census (VSH) September 26, 8:00am – 10:30am ([map](#)) Every 4th Thursday



For details of **CNC events**, visit their [website](#) or call (830) 249-4616. Some events require registration and have fees. ([map](#))

CNC Volunteer Workday (VSH) Sep 14, 9am-noon
 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.

Riverwalk Garden Workday (VSH)

Sep 13, 9am – 1pm, Corner of Aubrey and Old Guilbeau (north of Durango, the west side of the San Antonio river) on the Riverwalk ([map](#))

Weather permitting, volunteers are needed to cut, trim, and plant at the San Antonio River Walk Wildscape Garden. Bring cutting tools such as shears, rakes, and clippers and also gloves and water for this workday. It would be great to see some new faces at this garden, our own Master Naturalist project at the corner of Aubrey and Old Guilbeau. The intersection is located north of Cesar Chavez, (formerly Durango) on the west side of the San Antonio River on the Riverwalk. Contact Evelyn Penrod at epenrod@gvtc.com or (830) 438-2290. Sponsored by Alamo Area Master Naturalists Class 2.

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center,
 10750 Pleasanton Road, San Antonio,
 TX ([map](#)) Some fees apply.



Birding Tours (AT) 2nd Tuesdays,
 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sats, 7:30am

Community Volunteer Days (VSH) Sep 14, 8am – 11am, Help our habitat become more productive for birds and other wildlife. Spend a morning with us working in our native plant gardens or along our trails. You will learn how to achieve great results at your own homes! We will provide all tools, training and refreshments. To RSVP: mlac@audubon.org

Bird Count/Survey (VSH) Sep 28, 8am – noon
 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.

Graywater Project Public Demo and Q&A (AT)
 MLAC is the site for a research project that can help you keep your landscape thriving in challenging times.

If you are interested in learning how to utilize graywater for your garden or yard, join us for a public demonstration by Calvin Finch, Michael Martin and others from Texas A&M and TX Master Gardeners.

Come see the setup, and learn how to retrofit your washer to help you conserve water, save money and keep 12 months of native color in your yard and garden!

SAVE THE DATE

September 7, 2013



GRAND OPENING of the Urban Ecology Center

A \$6 million educational and event center at Phil Hardberger Park

We'll kick off the day with guided nature hikes beginning at 8 a.m.
The program is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Special guests to be announced soon!

 **PHIL HARDBERGER
PARK CONSERVANCY**

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
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T E X A S



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