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Rain Lilies *Cooperia drummondii*
- Terrie Hahn

Calendar at a Glance	
October 5, hours due.	
October 8, Salado Garden Tour	
October 11, 6 p.m. CTMN meeting	
October 15, Night Fest	
October 21-23, TXMN Annual Meeting	
See page 14 for more info	

Night Fest to Take Center Stage

- Zoe Rascoe

Our chapter is in full swing to host the 2016 Central Texas Night Fest on Saturday, October 15th. Last year we included a free Night Hike the evening before Nature Fest and we were overwhelmed with visitors - nearly 400 came streaming through the gate in the dark. So this year we are putting all our effort into a night time adventure that we are calling Night Fest. We will have about a dozen stations set up at Bend of the River Park for guests to visit. Stations will include live nocturnal animals, constellations demonstration and activity, attracting bats, use of the Sky Map app, sounds of the night, telescope viewing and other signs of the local night life. If you are not already helping with this event, please consider joining our efforts. We can use everyone in some way! Matter of fact, we NEED everyone in some way. If you get asked to help, please say yes. Rehanon Pampell is chairing this event if you need more information (rpampell@brc.tamus.edu) and Lyna Pitts is lining up volunteers. This is a great way to wrap up your volunteer hours before the end of the year. Spread the word - What will YOU discover?!

Take a look at our flyer on page 6.

Chapter Motto
**Earth Day,
Every Day**



From the President's Pen

I like the way the word October just kind of rolls out of your mouth. Like a ball rolling down a stairway, it bounces three times before slowing to a stop. As far as the month is concerned, it is a transition time. Pumpkin pie spice everything starts making a presence on the shelves of stores. Halloween décor begins its creep to the endcaps to tempt those spirits who revel in the



observance of All Hallows eve. The weather begins to come more from the north and less from the south and the days begin to get noticeably shorter.

Critters and plants begin their transition towards winter about now as well. Thoughts

of a long winters nap gently pull on the life force of trees who will soon shed their leaves with a beautiful display of color if we are lucky. Some

plants such as ragweed give a last hurrah much to the dismay of our allergy prone selves. Fall bloomers such as gayfeather and goldenrod begin their time in the spot light after holding out all summer for their turn to be show offs.



With the cooling temperatures comes more opportunities to get outside in more comfort than was available in August. Evening walks with fire flies, crickets, an occasional frog hopping by and the inevitable mosquito in Texas are at the ready for enjoyment. October is good for camping too. Fire pits, s'mores, plaid flannel shirts, dutch oven cooking, the smell of binder's twine, and the mid night armadillo creeping thru camp are some great memories.

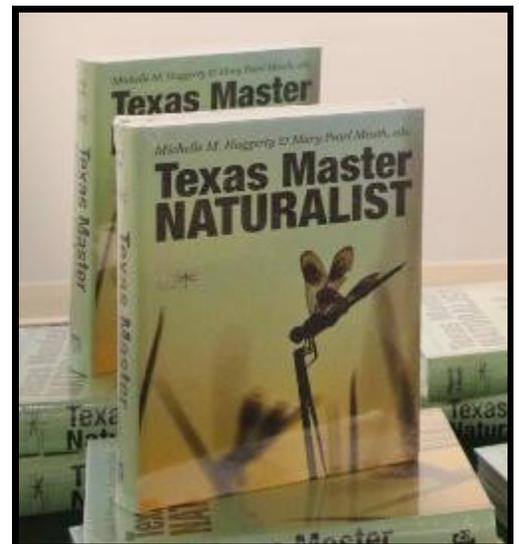
I hope you have plenty of your own wonderful October memories. It's never too late to get out there and make some more. Winter is coming....Lynn

Photos by Terrie Hahn

New Books are Here

- Zoe Rascoe

The new bound, color TMN curriculum has arrived! And my, but it's beautiful. Trainees who have not yet traded their black & white proof copy for the book can bring the proof to the October chapter meeting - see Lynn Fleming for the switcheroo. Chapter members can purchase the curriculum book at cost (\$35) or can get the bargain B & W proof for a \$5 donation.



CoCoRAHS Volunteers Needed

- Bruce Polikoff

CoCoRAHS is looking to add more volunteers in Central Texas. CoCoRAHS stands for Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network. It's a citizen science program where you measure and map precipitation right from your own backyard. CoCoRAHS data is used by weather forecasters, National Weather Service, scientists and researchers, LCRA and NASA to name a few.

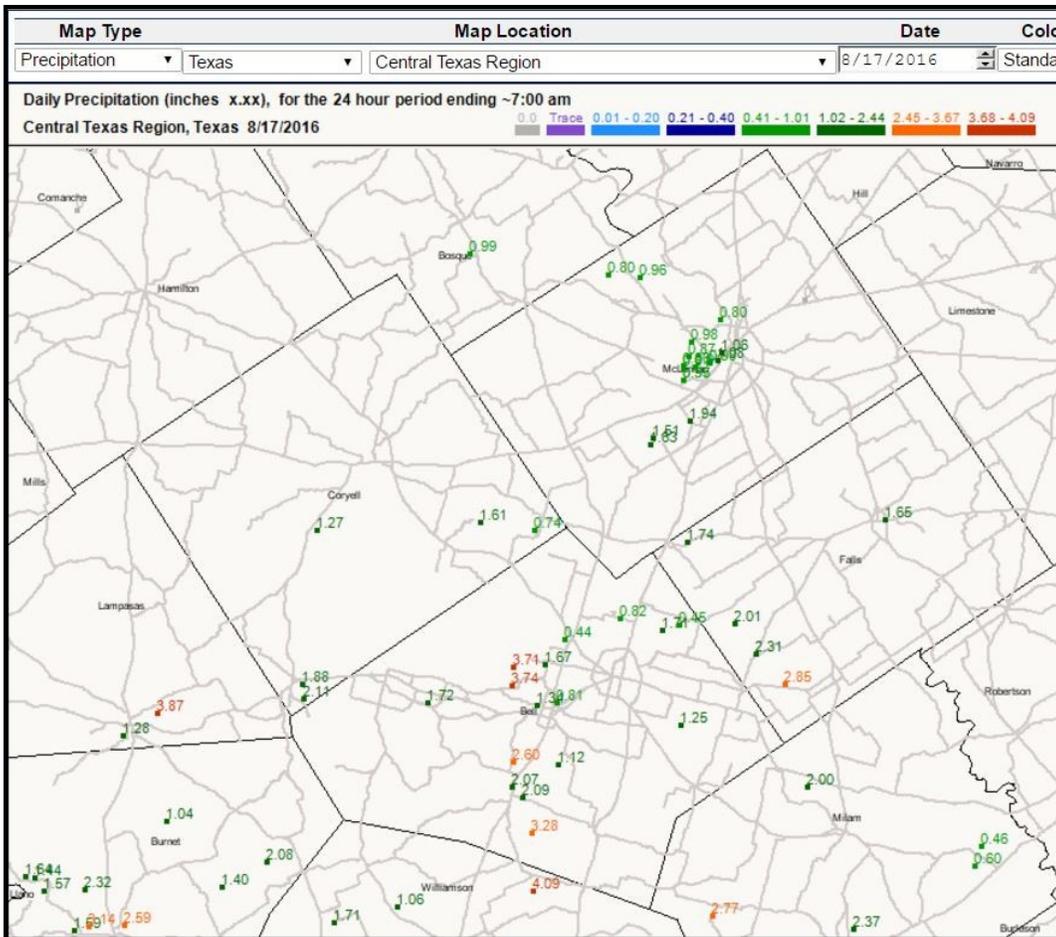


Bell County has about 17 active stations while Coryell has only 3. As you can see, The Network can always use more help. It's goal is one observer per square mile in urban areas and one observer per 36 square miles in rural areas.

If you have a passion for weather, it's easy to get involved and fun to do. Each observer obtains a rain gauge and takes the online training. A CoCoRAHS County Coordinator, like myself, can help you learn how to use the gauge and report readings. All you do is measure the rain every morning

and report it on the CoCoRAHS website. Even days with no rain are reported. It only takes 5 minutes and counts for volunteer hours. Every day you'll be able to see the precipitation map updated. You'll see your reports, and everyone else's around the country when you become part of a national network reporting rain and snow to the program.

If you're interested in joining CoCoRAHS, go to www.cocorahs.org and click on the Join CoCoRAHS link. Feel free to contact me with any questions at txmn@pobox.com or 254-307-8569.



Interesting Tidbits

- Terrie Hahn

We found this on a pathway in our yard. The dark part is hard and about 2 inches across. The spherical part has a very thin wall with a hole at the top. If you push on the sphere, it dents, but then goes back to its original shape. If you push it harder and it doesn't go back right away, you can blow into the hole and it reshapes itself. We'd never seen this before. Do you know what it is?

I posted these photos on the Face Book page called Gardening 101 in Central Texas. It's a good page to ask questions and get lots of people hunting down answers for you. A couple of people knew that this is an Earthstar and suggested a website called: <http://herbarium.usu.edu/fungi/FunFacts/starfact.htm>

They state the following: "Earthstars belong to a group of fungi called Gasteromycetes, or "stomach fungi". Their fruiting bodies are a stomach-shaped sac filled with dry spores. They are related to puffballs."

Young, closed earthstars are onion-shaped. Their peridium (skin) is made up of three layers. The layers allow the earthstar to do something no other fungus can do. Earthstars can *move*!

When it rains, the outer two layers of the peridium split and uncurl, forming a "star" with 4 to 12 rays. The inner layer of the peridium remains a closed sac. The rays spread with enough force to push aside leaves, raising the spore-filled sac above surrounding debris. Sometimes the rays even lift the earthstar high enough to break the connection to the parent mycelium. The rays close when they dry, and the sac lowers.

Some sacs release their spores when the tender inside peridium wears away. Other sacs toughen and form an opening at the top. When a raindrop strikes these sacs, it pushes in the tough wall, puffing spores out of the opening. After the spores are dispersed the sac breaks down, leaving only fragments attached to the rays. In these older specimens, the star-like rays remain open.

Earthstars are found from early June to mid-September."

Oh, the fun things we find in our yards when we really look hard (or get lucky).



Interesting Tidbits

- Terrie Hahn

We found this bird in one of our Live Oaks. I sent Mary Ann Everett, our resident bird expert, a photo and she said it's a young **Green Heron**! We're about 3 miles from Lake Georgetown. He only hung around a day or two. A week after that, I saw a Spotted Sandpiper hanging out around the pool until some lesser Gold Finches chased it away. He was too close to the Maximilian Sunflowers that they feed on.

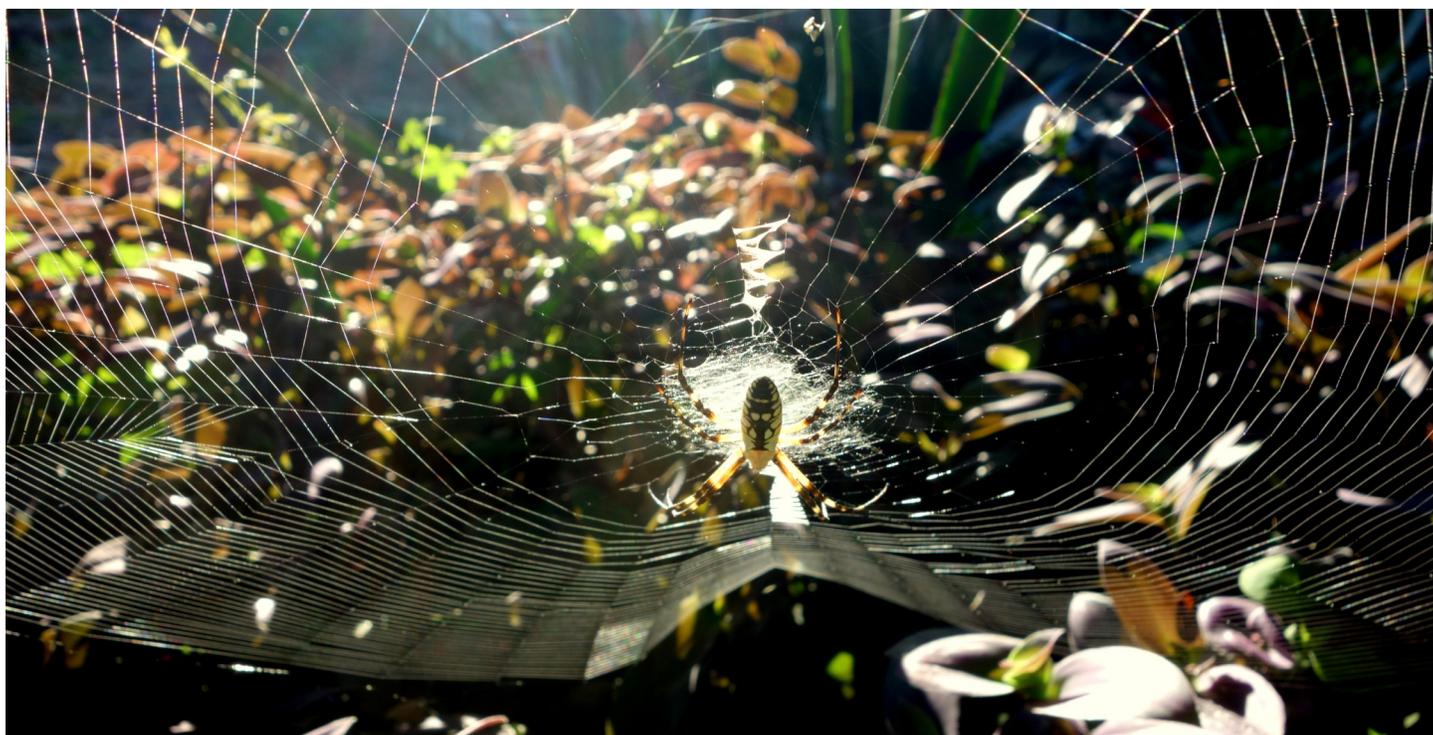


Clammyweed (*Polanisia dodecandra*) have been thriving in my flower beds all summer. I love these wildflowers, so don't ever pull them out. The hummingbirds and bees love them. They're going to seed now, so I'm assured of having them come up again next year. The common name of this lovely, stinky plant comes from the "clammy residue left on your hands when the plant is handled. Native to Texas and a good part of the West, these plants used to be used by Native Americans medicinally and as an edible. Seeds were ground for flour and the rest of the plant boiled and rinsed frequently to eat like spinach according to *Lone Star Wildflowers, A Guide to Texas Flowering Plants* by Lashara Nieland and Willa Finley. Native Americans also used Clammyweed for insect bites, upset stomachs and a black dye for pottery.



Below, Werner found this **Golden Garden Spider (*Argiope aurantia*)** had spun a very large web in one of the beds. We've seen quite a few of these spiders this year. They catch mosquitoes, flies, moths and even wasps in their web to munch on. A good site to learn more about these spiders, their mating habits, and how they build their webs is http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficial/beneficial-24_spider_blackandyellow_argiope.htm

Photos by Werner and Terrie Hahn



explore life under the night sky:

Constellation Stories

NIGHT SOUNDS

Bat Life **Owls** *Stars*

Nocturnal Critters

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE
NON-SCARY COSTUME

2016
Central Texas

FREE! Night Fest

BEND OF THE RIVER

**7915 South General Bruce Drive,
Temple, TX 76502**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

7PM - 9PM

CentralTexasNatureFest.org

Printing generously provided by 





Salado Gardens on Tour 2016

- Susan Terry, Keep Salado Beautiful

Saturday, October 8 from 10 am-4 pm Tickets available at keepsaladobeautiful.com

Don't miss these 5 very unique, magnificent Salado gardens. We will also feature 6 of our public gardens.

Earn a few service hours in Beautiful Salado. We need a few people to serve as GREETERS at the Private Gardens; welcome visitors and check-off their ticket as they tour the site. Once you are in our Village you will be able to see the other gardens and stop in at Christmas in October, enjoy a glass of wine or sample a touch of the local brew, "Evil Catfish."

1. Art in the Garden - The Pennington Compound

This five-acre spectacular and unique estate of Joyce and CR Pennington has a commanding panoramic view of the beautiful Salado Creek. It is a natural landscaped parkland composed of multi pocket gardens and fine art sculptures and artifacts that gives it a special spirit of place. Deer resistant and Texas-tough natives are grouped into plant communities that fill various niches around the existing lawn and enhance the vast outdoor sculpture and art collection.



2. The Artistic Texas Native Garden of Nancy and Owen Messenger

The home and garden is located on a hill and the front yard slopes away from the house and plantings are tightly massed in beds. There are gravel paths that glide down the hill where there is a diverse abundance of native and adapted plants, perennials, ornamental grasses and herbs. A side courtyard where under the canopy of oaks and elms is a natural designed area with its use of stones, rocks and trees linked together providing a serene spot.



3. Picturesque Garden of Alice and George Romfh

A delightful garden in harmony with nature brings serenity and calm to mind when touring this beautifully secluded landscape. Located on a cul-de-sac in a quiet neighborhood, the acre plus lot slopes to a wet weather creek and meadow. A variety of ornamental shrubs and a tremendous abundance of flowers provides a mixture of colors throughout. Within the gardens are a collection of stone angels and wind chimes providing delightful peaceful sounds as one tours the yard.



Continued on next page...

Salado Garden Tour ...continued

4. The Secret Garden of Shirley and Bill Pinkston

This secluded home and garden is nestled between a natural area with a seasonal creek and a steep hill that is terraced with Texas limestone interspersed with native plantings. Entering, one crosses a wooden bridge leading to the front garden that was designed as a formal garden to blend with the natural setting. Beds of colorful seasonal annuals, perennials and native plants fill the beautiful and tranquil yard.



5. Hillside Garden of Mickey and Linda Rawls



Linda and Mickey Rawls have combined the art of featuring plants, the natural resources of the land and the imagination to create their garden spaces. They have extensively used local rock and stone throughout their landscape combined with various sized rusted pipe vessels used as containers for potted specimens. Plantings within the hillside terraces are a combination of natives, irises, yuccas and ornamental grasses mostly drought-tolerant, shade loving and deer resistant.



Public Sculpture Gardens



Photos by
Margaret
Williamson

2 Night Backpacking Trip Colorado Bend State Park

For More Information:

Nichole Smith
330-988-5139
kittyrock2000@gmail.com

COST: \$10

Reservation required

*You can start the trip on any
of the three days



December 9-11, 2016

Friday, December 9th: arrive any time after 4pm. Hike 1 mile from designated parking to the camp site. Or arrive early Saturday morning and do the same.

Saturday, December 10th: hike all day, enjoy the sights and have fun. Alternative hikes will be mapped out for various experience levels so you can extend your hike much longer than the basic hike. Rally at 2nd campsite and hang out eat dinner, go for a swim or other activity of your choice.

Sunday, December 11th: spend the morning hiking, or longer if you choose. Alternative hikes will be available for various experience levels or time available. If you need to get home early, I am trying to set up an early escape transport a mile or so away from 2nd camp. The entire hike will create a loop all the way around the park and bring us back to our vehicles. You will never see the same sight twice.

Diverse terrain, amazing views, fresh springs, swimming holes, the river.... What more could you ask for? This could be a practice trip to prepare for longer trips, or this could be the trip you are preparing for. There will be people of all levels participating in this hike, beginners to experts. I will be holding a pre-hike, gear check class before the hike to make sure that everyone is prepared.

....Nichole Smith

For more photos and information on the State Park:

<http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/colorado-bend>

<http://wildtexas.com/texas-parks/colorado-bend-state-park>

BOTANIC GARDEN

- Janice Gibbs, Temple Telegram

These are excerpts from Janice Gibbs article on the future Bend O' The River Botanic Garden posted August 23rd www.tdtnews.com

SWA Group, the landscape and design firm hired by the city of Temple to develop a master plan for the Bend o' the River property, held its fourth and final community meeting at the Gober Party House, sharing how the project could look in years to come. On August 23rd, the designers illustrated the land's potential — lighted trees, a pier extending out over the river, a canopy walk over a forested area with bird blinds, performance spaces, outdoor sculptures and a variety of gardens, with the city's hike-and-bike trail playing a role.

"This is the very beginning and there's a long way to go," Kinder Baumgardner, principal project manager said.

The property is located on the south side of town, bordered by Interstate 35 on the west and the Leon River

on the south and east. It is made up of the 30 acres donated by the Rueben and Bernice Talasek family and 58 acres donated by the neighboring property owner.

During the months-long process of meeting with the project steering committee and community, the designers have documented what the community wants and what it doesn't want.

A botanical garden is a specific type of public space,



but is not necessarily a place that people go to study plants. It needs to be a place where people go to be with family and friends, offering a variety of events and activities, Baumgardner said.

Planning for such a space has to include back-of-the-house activities, such as an infrastructure that supports delivery trucks and maintenance vehicles, parking and places for composting. The property does have some constraints, such as noise from Interstate 35, which can be tamped down with the construction of a berm that wraps around the west and south sides of the property, said Michael Robinson, project manager.

Some of the soil is contaminated with arsenic and antimony that blew across the river from a former manufacturing plant. The preference is to have the soil re-



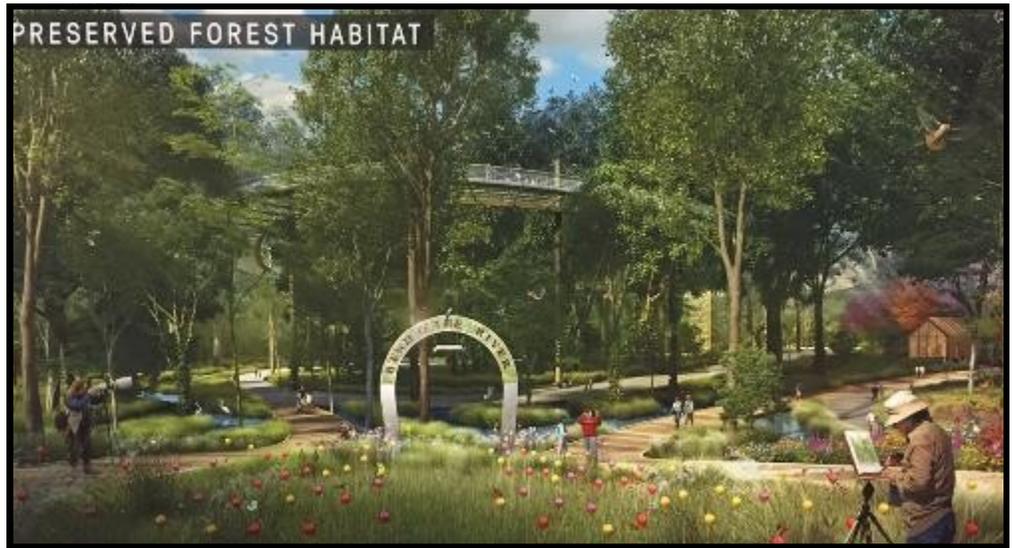
moved, he said.

Design Manager, Amna Ansari said after visiting the site, the designers wanted to take advantage of the terrain and hoped to preserve the wetland and forested area along with the mature trees.

The group was deliberate in where it needed to remove trees, mainly in the contaminated zone where parking is planned and in the forested area where paths would need to be carved out, she said.

The forested area, where native species would be introduced, makes up about 40 percent of the site and also helps determine programmed zones on the property, Ansari said.

“A lot of the active programming would be closer to the freeway, such as parking and the plaza area,” she said. A central zone would include the garden collections surrounded by the native forest. “More serene programs would be introduced in the preserved forest, such as the canopy walk,” Ansari said.



The master plan consists of many meandering paths that set the pace on how the site is experienced, she said. There will be places to introduce iconic nature landmarks that would complement and enhance the area.

The garden will be built in phases and will likely start with the removal of the contaminated soils, said Robinson. Since that area will be disturbed it makes sense to have that become phase one of the build out, which would include the event space, community space, plaza, main building, parking and service road, as funding allows. Future projects would move east toward the forested area.



The final document with expected costs will be presented to the Temple City Council in September.

Photos of illustration boards by Terrie Hahn

It's Graduation Time!

- Zoe Rascoe



Graduates include Bill Albright, John Atkins, Tina Atkins, Ben Clement, Vanessa Crosby, Dan O'Neill, Colleen Robinson and Mary Sharpe graduating with the Naturalist Mortar Board.



Not pictured are Diana Hostettler, Sara Winn and Wende Hammond.



Graduation



Above: Mary Odom helps set up. Can you find our mascot? Traditional Celebratory cake; A Naturalist couple: Stephanie and Bill Albright; Central Texas Trail Builders Speaker; Tech support with new Chapter laptop; Below: this puppy is worth it.



On the Horizon

(AT) 10/1/2016 - 8:00-4:00 pm **Native Landscape Certification Program: Level 2 @ Georgetown Public Library** -- to register or for more information go to:<http://npsot.org/wp/wilco/2016/07/21/education-native-landscape-certification-program-nlcp/>

(V) 10/1 & 5 & 8/2016 - **I-35 Rest Area Monarch Waystations Workday @ Hill County Safety Rest Area** - for more information, exact location and RSVP contact Kay Jenkins (kay-jenkins@sbcglobal.net or 903-566-1624).

(V) 10/8/2016 - 9:00-1:30 pm **TPWD Grant Work Day - Miller Springs @ Miller Springs Nature Center** -- for more information or sign-up contact Rene Berkhoudt (rene.berkhoudt@gmail.com).

(V) 10/8/2016 - 10:00-4:00 pm **5th Annual Salado Yard and Garden Tour @ Salado, TX** -- for more information/RSVP contact Susan Terry (slterry@gmail.com).

(Priceless) 10/11/2016 - 6:00 pm **CTMN Meeting @ Belton Church of Christ** -- for more information contact Lynn Fleming (lynn.fleming99@gmail.com).

(V) 10/12 & 13 & 16/2016 - **I-35 Rest Area Monarch Waystations Workday @ Hill County Safety Rest Area** -- for more information, exact location and RSVP contact Kay Jenkins (kay-jenkins@sbcglobal.net or 903-566-1624).

(V) 10/13/2016 - 8:30 am **Miller Springs Workday @ Miller Springs Park Nature Center** -- for more information contact Mary Ann Everett (everett.maryann4@gmail.com).

(V) 10/15/2016 -6:30-9:00 pm **Night Fest @ Bend o' the River Park** -- for more information and RSVP contact Rehannon Pampell (rehanon.pampell@live.com).

(V) 10/16/2016 - **Colorado Bend State Park Interactive/Interpretative Activity @ Colorado Bend State Park** -- for more information contact Lynn Williams (lindawi@embarqmail.com).

(V) 10/19/2016 - 9:00-12:00 pm **Mother Neff Workday @ Mother Neff State Park** -- for more information contact Yvonne Eele (yeele@ymail.com).

(AT) 10/21-23/2016 - 12:00 pm through 12:00 pm **Texas Master Naturalist 17th Annual Meeting @ La Torretta Lake Resort and Spa** -- to register or for more information go to:<https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1804840>

(AT) 10/21/2016 - 8 am - noon **Texas Waters Days at MN Annual Meeting**. Can register separately at <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1804840>

(AT) 10/22/2016 - 8:00-4:00 pm **Native Landscape Certification Program: Level 3 @ Georgetown Public Library** -- to register or for more information go to: <http://npsot.org/wp/wilco/2016/07/21/education-native-landscape-certification-program-nlcp/>

(V) 10/27/2016 - 8:30 am **Bell County Museum Workday @ Bell County Museum** -- for more information contact Lynn Fleming (lynn.fleming99@gmail.com).

(V) Approved for Volunteer Hours
(AT) Approved for Advanced Training
(MA) Must Apply for approval of hours

Newsletter Mission Statement

"Our mission is to inform and educate Master Naturalist members and the general public about our local environment and resources, and what we, as caretakers, can do to protect them."

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Please send any news of events, articles or photos of what you're doing or what's going on in your yard or area to:

Terrie Hahn at moompie45@hotmail.com

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

<https://www.facebook.com/Central-Texas-Chapter-Texas-Master-Naturalists-116648718373317/timeline/>

The Central Texas Master Naturalist Chapter:

Holds member meetings the 2nd Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December at 6 p.m. at the Belton Church of Christ at 3003 N. Main. Location exceptions are in December and June.

PACE meetings are at the Church location at 6 p.m. the 2nd Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. **THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME AT ALL OF OUR MEETINGS.**

Programs Activities Committees Everything else

The Board of Directors meet the 1st Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November at 3 p.m. in the Board Room at the Agrilife Extension Center at 1605 Main in Belton.