



***Misión.** To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.*

CHAPTER MEETING

Guadalupe Master Naturalists Monthly Program and Meeting

Date: Monday, October 26, 2020

Time: No social time planned

7:00 PM – Program: Liz Romero will speak on the soils of Guadalupe County. Our county is “blessed” with several different soil types which affect what grows there. Liz is a Guadalupe Master Naturalist. She is also a Master Gardener, a member of the Native Plant Society of Texas and a talented artist.

8:00 PM – Chapter Meeting

Location: AgriLife Extension Service, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin and online virtual via Webex.

VOLUNTEER OPPERTUNITIES

Discover Programs

Horns & Thorns

Description: Stayin’ alive is tough! Children will explore how plants and animals use various forms of defenses and camouflage to survive in a competitive environment. Discovery packets will be available for the children to take home.

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, 12805 Schaefer Rd., Schertz

Leader: Liz Romero [fleurromero@gmail.com]; Assistants Kay Robbins and Tom Hardaway

Horns & Thorns continued

Date: Monday, October 12, 2020

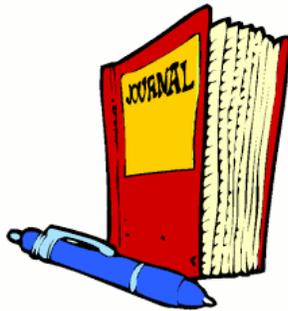
Time: 2:00 Home School children

4:00 After School children

Location: Seguin Public Library, 313 W. Nolte, Seguin

Leader: Kate Schnautz [kate_schnautz@yahoo.com]; Assistants Liz Romero, Kay Robbins and Tom Hardaway

Members of the current Training Class are encouraged to attend.



Kate Schnautz and Mark de Kiewietz have developed the new Discover program on Journaling. It will be presented as the November program.

Monday, November 9, Seguin Public Library

Saturday, November 14, Crescent Bend

Citizen Science

Pollinator Garden at Park West / Monarch Monitoring

Date: Wednesday mornings, October 7, 14, 21, 28

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Park West, 601 N. Vaughn, Seguin

Description: Help with general care and maintenance of the garden and the planting new plants as needed.

The Monarch migration is starting;



Native Plant Society of Texas – Native Plant Week / Bracken BioBlitz October 2020

Dates: October 18 – 24, 2020

Time: Varies

Location: Bracken Cave Preserve, 26101 FM3009, San Antonio, TX 78266

Description: The purpose of “Bracken BioBlitz October 2020” is to see not only how many plants but other forms of nature can be observed using the iNaturalist app. We may have the bio blitz only a few days that week, (October 18-24). Obviously, if COVID-19 restrictions are still in effect we will need wear mask, social distance, and limit the number participants each day or break into groups. We will looking for Volunteers who have been involved in surveys and know enough about the property to lead groups. We have some great maps, however much of this will be done in walkable areas. Be aware some of our walking paths and trails are very rough and rocky. Keep this in mind if you wish to participate.

Bracken Preserve, has agreed to host an iNaturalist NPSOT/Master Naturalist BioBlitz that week from October 19 to 23rd. The BioBlitz will involve 4 or 5 individuals in a group, led by a Bracken Preserve docent, walking in a designated area for about 3 hours and documenting the flora and fauna (lets not forget the fungi) by taking a picture and recording in iNaturalist. The Preserve has been enlarged to about 3000 acres, so social distancing will be maintained!

- In preparation for the BioBlitz, Bracken Preserve is **seeking volunteers to help upgrade their trails by removing branches, rocks, and junipers.** Again, this work will be done by small groups exercising social distancing and led by a Bracken docent. There will also be an on-line sign-up for volunteer maintenance work after October 1st. I suppose more information will be available on tools, clothing, water, etc.

If you haven't used iNaturalist it is easy to get started. Just visit [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org), sign up and download the app. Then start making observations. The app will help you identify observations by making suggestions.

This link will take you to Craig Hensley teaching how to use iNaturalist:

<https://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/inaturalist-online-workshop-webinar-recordings/>

Contact: Edith and Don Bergquist email her at donedith@sbcglobal.net and request to be added to her list.



Forest Health

Still too much solar radiation for tackling forest invaders at Park West. Leader Chris Dyess plans to start activities in November.

Use this time to clean and sharpen your tools to attack the bamboo and Ligustrum.

ADVANCED TRAINING

Texas Children in Nature – Virtual Summit Teachers and Students Learning Outdoors Dr. Sandra Johnson

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Times: 2:00-3:00 PM or 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Webinar

Description: This workshop is for both formal and informal educators teaching in an outdoor setting. Teachers would like to take their students outdoors to learn, but don't always know what the best methods would be. They wonder, "How do I maintain interest of the students and control of student behavior while meeting the state standards?" They wonder, "How do I make this concept developmentally appropriate, engaging for students, and meet state standards."



Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tcin-2020-summit-session-teachers-and-students-learning-outdoors-tickets-116933357821> **Suggested donation \$20.00**

Native Landscape Certification Program – Level 1 Class: Introduction to Native Landscapes

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2020

Time: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: The class is an online presentation on Zoom. In order for you to fully benefit, we recommend you take the class on a computer, laptop or tablet, not a phone. To join the class you must have the most recent version of Zoom software and a reliable internet connection. Download the free Zoom app from <https://zoom.us/signup>.

Description: Learn the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes.

Discover the differences between sustainable and conventional development.

Understand your Texas vegetation region and soil.

Become familiar with 40 native Texas plants recommended for your landscape and 5 plants to avoid.

The course includes live Zoom presentations and a narrated, virtual plant walk to help in identification.

Fee: \$37.00

Contact: For more information, or mail-in registration, contact NLCP Coordinator Meg Inglis at 512 589-1316. Sign-up here: <https://npsot3.123signup.com/event/registration/rkdxv>



2020 Annual Meeting October 14 – 17, 2020

This year's meeting presents an opportunity to "attend" even more sessions than ever before. With the virtual format for this year's Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting, sessions will be offered from Wednesday October 14th through Saturday October 17th from 9am through 4pm, most days and with a lunch break every day. We also have some fun, extra sessions lined up for pre-conference and each evening during the conference week, we're hoping to host virtual socials and watch events. The cost for the event is a **flat rate of \$55** for all attendees for the full virtual conference. Registration will include access to all virtually offered technical sessions, the general sessions and some fun surprises offered the weeks surrounding the Annual Meeting. While we're not able to offer discounts this year, we are happy to offer this lower registration price for our meeting with the new virtual platform. Due to the virtual format and reduced registration fees for this year's Annual Meeting, there will be no refunds available.

Visit the website <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2020-annual-meeting/> for full information.

Saving Birds One Building at a Time - ONLINE LEARNING

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2020

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Location: To Join the Zoom Presentation: Registration is required. Click

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/zoom/register/tZArcOuvqDwsE9Mob64v5wxnhrR-s28z4MO2> to register.

Or use this link <https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/events/>

Description: Every 9 seconds, a bird strikes a building and dies. Learn how migratory birds and bats are affected by light pollution and glass collisions, how to create a collision monitoring program, what species have been rescued, and how YOU can protect birds and bats at your own home.

Presenter: About Lindsay Jacks Lindsay is the Director of Lights Out Baltimore (LOB). In 10 years, they have collected over 4,000 birds, rescued 1,300 birds, rescued 70 bats, and installed bird-safe products for commercial buildings. Volunteers monitor daily during migration to rescue injured birds and bats that have fallen victim to light pollution and building collisions. LOB works with the city and local organizations to reduce light pollution and advocate for sustainable building design. Lindsay has been a bird keeper in Association of Zoo and Aquariums (AZA) institutions for 10 years and serves on the committee of AZA SAFE (Saving Species from Extinction) North American Songbird program. Lindsay enjoys volunteering at Phoenix Wildlife Center to care for the injured birds and bats she finds on her LOB walks and releasing them back to the wild.



Date: Saturday, October 24, 2020

Location: Online Live stream will also be shared on [Hill Country Alliance Facebook](#)

Description: The Hill Country Alliance is excited to present an event where everyone gets a front row seat! This year's FESTIVAL will be all virtual, all online, and all safe. HCA is creating an interactive online experience complete with live streaming, engaging demonstrations, and will be hosting a virtual marketplace and educational resource hub! Stay tuned for updates: <http://www.hillcountryalliance.org/rainwaterrevival/>



October 2020 is our inaugural, month-long celebration of the region's most dazzling night-time feature — the star-twinkling, planet-glowing, comet-crossing night sky — where beauty and wonder abound.

The first annual Hill Country Night Sky Month, October 2020, is a celebration of our region's night skies and of the hard work that Hill Country communities do to preserve it.

For more information go to: <https://www.hillcountryalliance.org/nightskymonth>

New Members-in-Training

Our Training Class students had a wonderful experience with Dr. Alan Lievens at TLU this past week. This popular lesson had students identifying plant parts using the dissecting microscopes. They then learned how to use the plant characteristics and a dichotomous key to discover the plant's scientific name.

Though somewhat out of our comfort zone on occasion, the classes are going well. We have a great group who have faced the challenges of a "COVID-restricted" class with grace and understanding.

Notes from Park West

Clara Mae Marcotte

When Master Naturalists meet to work at Park West, many items are discussed. And not so surprising, most of them are about nature and about flora and fauna found at the park. I have been saving tidbits that we discuss so that I can share them with you.

One day a couple of weeks ago I asked Nancy how to tell the difference between a barn swallow and a purple martin. Simply put, the barn swallow has a long forked tail while the martin's tail is fan shaped when spread, but a shallow v when perching. Supposedly in the southern U.S., barn swallows are called "mud martins" or "barnies." The Purple Martin Conservation Association says that barn swallows are the bird most likely to "follow the lawn mower." Barn swallows have a buffy orange underside and white spots on the underside of their tail. Another difference in Allaboutbirds.org is the size: purple martins are the largest swallow. Other swallows are 60% the size of martins. Of course, to me, that would only help if I saw them side by side.

Sources include Nancy, Purplemartin.org, allaboutbirds.org, and naturenorth.com. More than once we've taken visitors through Park West and taught them how to identify frost weed. I think the Missouri website, nature.mdc.mo.gov, says it best: White crownbeard (frost weed) is a tall perennial with winged stalks. The site says those wings are an extension of leaf tissue. Wildflower.org uses less flowery language by telling us that each stem has soft, fleshy green flanges running longitudinally down its length. Out at the park we have visitors use their hands to actually feel the "wings" on the stalks.

Many times some of us are stumped when it comes to identification. What in the world is that? Luckily, we have Nancy and Liz with us and our handy cell phones with iNaturalist. A recent plant that showed up uninvited in our pollinator garden was clammyweed which was new to me. Clammyweed or *Polanisia dodecandra* is listed in Wildflower.org which had a surprisingly short entry. However, plantsusda.gov had a wonderful two page fact sheet put out by the E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center in Kingsville.

Clammyweed's name refers to the sticky moist glands on the surface of the plant. Supposedly the plant has a strong unpleasant odor which I've never noticed. This prompted the Plant Materials Center to issue a warning to keep it away from foot traffic when you plant it in butterfly gardens. It does have beautiful white or cream colored flowers. The plant is a native annual forb and an early successional plant which means it is quick to establish on disturbed soils, grows quickly, and provides a favorable environment for other slow to germinate native species. It is often the first species to emerge and flower when you plant a wildflower mix. It readily re-seeds itself as we've found out in our own pollinator garden. The seed is eaten by game birds including bobwhite quail, scaled quail, mourning doves, white-wing doves, and wild turkeys, as well as many nongame birds and mammals. Wouldn't it be neat if our clammyweed brought in some of these species? Clammyweed is an important nectar plant for many species of butterflies and provides habitat to insects.

A question that comes up a lot at Park West is how to tell the difference between flame sumac, chinaberry and soapberry. Bill Ward of the Boerne Native Plant Society wrote an article in which he brings up some differences. He said that soapberry, like chinaberry has foliage that gives it an airy aspect. Soapberry leaves are yellow-green pinnately compound with 4 to 19 lance-shaped leaflets a few inches long, while chinaberry leaves are darker green and bi-pinnately compound with small leaflets that have toothed margins. He then compares soapberry with flame-leaf sumac.





Soapberry has alternate leaves and leaflets while sumac has alternate leaves with opposite leaflets and flanged stems. Ward notes that he has noticed that the soapberry more commonly lacks the terminal leaflet than does the sumac.

Mature fruit of the chinaberry is opaque dull-yellow, while mature soapberry fruit has a black seed with a translucent amber cover. Rangeplants.tamu.edu says the flame sumac blooms with a small whitish flower in early summer. The mature fruit is round and red. (In a side note it adds that the flame sumac spreads by rhizomes which I did not know.) In order to truly tell the difference you will probably need to cut branches off each tree and compare them.

I will end my Notes from Park West by the collective term for the birds on the soccer field, a plague of grackles! Although, it turns out, that Wikipedia doesn't claim the use of that term and I can't find it in James Lipton's *An Exaltation of Larks*. It does seem to be a Texas term.

CEDAR ELMS

David Benbow

The large cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*) in my front yard is blooming again, and is loudly abuzz with honeybees. The tree often blooms both in the spring and in the fall, and produces literally millions of small, flat, brown, winged seeds, ninety-eight percent of which germinate in our potted plants beneath the tree. In spite of that little drawback, Neil Sperry declared it to be the best elm species to plant in Texas. And, I agree.



The cedar elm is native to central Texas, but is much less common than the Post Oak and Live Oak species that dominate our gravelly sand hills. They grow at a moderate rate, and, given enough time, care and water, can attain heights of 70 feet. They usually develop an attractive inverted-vase, elm-like spread which can exceed 80 feet.

Cedar elms are easy to recognize, although from the specimens I've personally viewed around Central Texas, I suspect there may be more than one variety of the species. If you are viewing from a distance, look for the elm shape, and the small foliage. When up close, the first thing I look for are the leaves. They are very elm-like, rough textured and serrated, only much smaller than American or Slippery elms, rarely exceeding one inch in length. The small stems in young trees are winged, meaning they have fish-fin like growths. The first time I saw these growths, I thought the tree was diseased; but, they are normal. The bark is gray colored in young trees, growing more deeply brown and furrowed as the tree ages.

As with all trees, they have their pros and cons. Their advantages are obvious. They are large, beautiful, well-shaped shade trees. They are more resistant to Dutch Elm Disease, (*Ophiostoma novoulmi*) which has ravaged the American Elm population. They are easy to grow and require little assistance once they are established. They will, however, grow about twice as fast if well watered and fertilized. I know this from experience.

They do have a few negatives, aside from the massive seed production (which makes them somewhat invasive). They lose their leaves in the winter. As with all members of the Elm (Ulmaceae) family, they are susceptible to mistletoe infestation. Their wood, while very strong, is more brittle than Live Oak. In the nineteen years we've lived on our place, we've had two hurricanes, and several other serious wind and thunderstorms.

The big Cedar Elms always seem to suffer the worst wind damage. In fact, that's how I learned why they are called "Cedar" elm. When you have to get out the chain-saw and clean up a driveway full of down limbs, you quickly notice the distinct cedar-like aroma of the sawn wood. These down limbs also make excellent firewood, but you should allow the logs to "cure" for at least a year before burning, and try to keep the sawn wood from contacting dirt, because they rot faster than oak. One last little drawback; allergy sufferers will notice when they start blooming, even before the bees turn the tree into a humming symphony.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

As we move toward the end of the year, we are looking to fill positions of responsibility within our Chapter. It takes the dedication of all to move our Chapter forward and fulfill the mission of educating the public on conservation of natural resources. It is through our various projects we make a lasting impact that improves our community.



Offices that need new leaders:

President
Secretary
Treasurer

Contact Nominating Committee Chairman Craig Wagner at craigwagner31@aol.com to volunteer for one of the officer positions

We all should sign up for one of the various committees. Please choose from the list below and send your choice of committee[s] to Tom Hardaway at tehardaway@yahoo.com.

Guadalupe Master Naturalists – Committees for 2021

Monthly Program – **NEW Chair needed – Clara Mae Marcotte has resigned the position for 2021.** Find speakers of interest to the public as well as the Master Naturalists for the monthly chapter meeting. May arrange occasional field trips.

Training Course – Develop the curriculum, find lecturers and venues, create class schedule, host the class sessions. Current chair is on the next class committee.

Nature Education – Plan and carry out educational and outreach activities that fall under Training and Educating Others (TR) and Public Outreach (PO). Create and maintain original curriculum, kits, and exhibits. Educate others using curriculum developed by other entities. Recruit and train members to carry out these activities.

Citizen Science – Plans activities that qualify for Natural Resource Management (RM), Nature/Public Access (NPA), Field Research (FR), or Technical Guidance (TG). Examples include invasive plant removals; biological surveys; trail building and maintenance; and, create and maintain wildscapes and interpretive areas.

Advanced Training – Identify and approve training programs and provide information to Communications for dissemination to members.

Communications – External publicity including press releases and program announcements. Internal communications to include newsletter; website, Facebook and email to members.

Membership – All functions relating to VMS; order certification and milestone pins; maintain the Chapter roster.

Fund Raising – Plan and oversee fund raising events; grant writing.

Hospitality – Plan and organize social events at monthly programs, Chapter hosted events, and the end of year function.

Note: Committee Chairpersons are members of the Board and should attend the bi-monthly Board Meeting, held at 5:30 on odd numbered months (Jan, March, May etc.)



Committee Chairmen need to begin developing a 2021 Chapter year budget for their committee. The budget will be voted on at the December meeting.



Junior Master Naturalist / Natural Science

Native Plants and Their Role in Insect Nutrition

Mark de Kiewietz



This program is the result of joint sponsorship from AgriLife's 4-H, Texas Master Naturalists and Texas Beekeepers Education Association. It is designed to give children an understanding of the interactivity of insects and their environment. The children are required to manage bees while experiencing hands-on interactions. This will teach them to be able to make decisions which will result in healthy and

productive bees.

With the help of Sandra Wheeler, we changed the venue of the field trip to Warbler Woods. As we all know, bees are just one part of nature and whether we manage them or not they form part of the ecosystem. With the skilled guidance of Veronica Hawk, Master Naturalist and Native Plant

Society of Texas member, the children learned that there is a multi variable interaction between the bees and their environment. This makes bees a great "canary" of nature and specifically insects who make up almost 80% of the living creatures.



The children learned how the life cycles of bees and plants interact and how they depend on each other. We learned how the nectar flow is different for different plants and how some of the bee species have adapted to take advantage of this. We discovered what the plants get out of this relationship and that the bees need to visit different varieties of plants to get all the nutrition they need.



Plants have different strategies to protect themselves and communicate with the bees. The basics of identifying plants (and trees) and the need to have patience when observing the insects visiting the plant was also discussed. During the walk through the nature preserve, the Junior Master Naturalists practiced their identification skills but just could not hold back their enthusiasm when finding an insect feeding on the plant.

October will see us back in the Apiary, learning how non-hibernating insects prepare for winter. For the November meeting, Jim Dyess will be talking and leading a field trip on Rocks and Soils

Contact Mark de Kiewietz at mark.dekiewiet@att.net if you are interested in volunteering with this program

In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, our members have been busy with volunteering and learning through Advanced Training programs. For 2020, we have these Master Naturalists that have completed initial certification and/or 2020 re-certification.



From 2019 Training Class #5, Initial Certification was completed by:

David Benbow
Barbara Benbow
Bobby Cowley
Elaine Cowley
Seth Faught
David Pearson
Kathy Pearson
Kay Robbins
Mary Styblo

Re-certification was accomplished by:

Marilyn Anderson
Bobby Cowley
Elaine Cowley
Michelle Darnell
Mark de Kiewietz
Chris Dyess
John Edson
Tom Hardaway
Janet Magee
Clara Mae Marcotte
Nancy Masterson
Kathy Pearson
Craig Sagebiel
Pam Turner
Craig Wagner
Sandi Wheeler



Looking Ahead...

Looking Ahead...

Hospitality Chair Mary Styblo will be working with Chapter members to plan our December meeting. This has traditionally been our Christmas Pot-luck Social. Ideas were discussed at the September 28 meeting and plans will be announced soon.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net.

Deadline for next issue – October 30 for the November issue.

Officers:

President – Tom Hardway

Vice-president – Jennifer Ehlers

Secretary – Sharon Frels

Treasurer – John Edson

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Committee Chairmen:

Program – Clara Mae Marcotte

Training Class – Marilyn Anderson

Nature Education – Nancy Masterson

Citizen Science – Tom Hardway

Advanced Training – Cinde Thomas-Jimenez

Communications – Michelle Darnell

Membership – Michelle Darnell

Fund Raising – Craig Sagebiel

Hospitality – Mary Styblo

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<https://txmn.org/guadalupe/>



The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife

