



***Mission.** 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.*



You and A Guest  
Are Invited to the Annual  
**GMN Christmas Social**  
**Monday, December 7**  
**6 p.m.**

Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center Pavilion

*Bring your own food, drinks, utensils. Masks and social distancing will be required. Tables will be covered but consider decorating your own table. Lawn chairs are optional for comfort.*

*We will be collecting canned goods for the Christian Cupboard and unwrapped toys for the Seguin Police Department Blue Santa program.*

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, December 4 to  
Mary Styblo at  
[drstyblo@hotmail.com](mailto:drstyblo@hotmail.com) or  
call 830-401-0446



## 2021 Discover Programs

- February 8 and 13: Journaling **Liz Romero**.
- March 8 and 13: Flying **Nancy Masterson**
- April 10 and 12: Buzzing **Mark deKiewiet**
- May 8 and 10: Forest **Kim Lewis**
- June 12 and 14: Clues/Traces **Tom Hardaway**
- July 10 and 12: Horns and Thorns **Larry White**

----- Reassess-----

- September 11 and 13: Dinosaurs **Micelle Darnell**
- October 9 and 11: Rocks?
- November 8 and 13: Early Texans?

Leaders will revise into walk/stop stations with a parent take-home sheet.

## Citizen Science

### Pollinator Garden at Park West

**Date:** Wednesday mornings, December 2, 9, 16, 2020

**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.



Leaders: Clara Mae Marcotte, Liz Romero

## Forest Health

Dates: Thursdays – December 3, 10, 17 and every Thursday January 7-May 29, 2021

Time: 8:30 – 11:30 AM

Location: Park West

Description: Over the past 6 years Guadalupe Master Naturalists have done a fabulous job reducing the number of invasive plants and trees at Park West. We've experimented with different methods of controlling ligustrum and Chinaberry and the difference in the forest between the areas we have worked and those we haven't is amazing and obvious even to a novice naturalist.

With cool weather it's time to get back to culling Chinaberries and lopping ligustrums. This year we plan to do more tree girdling, but will be lopping some smaller trees or small invasive plants. We will also spread wildflower seeds in several sunny areas.

We meet at the south end of the splashpad parking lot on Vaughan Street. Bring mask and water, gloves, loppers, short handled axe, machete, or hand saw.

Contact: Chris Dyess at [ced16123@gmail.com](mailto:ced16123@gmail.com)



## Fall Training Class



The Fall 2020 Training Class completed their course of study on Saturday, November 21, at the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center. After their lesson on Aquatic Ecosystems, a picnic was enjoyed by all. Three members of the class, Bruce Bebow, John Barrington and David Tripp, had the hours to certify as Master Naturalists! Seen above are from left: Schertz coordinator Michelle Darnell, Dennis Blackburn, Jennifer Eash, David Tripp, Rebeca Leininger, Bruce Bebow, Adrienne Bebow, Prsident Tom Hardaway, Ray Windsor, Donna Kapinus, Debra Windsor, Tom Martin, aining Class Chair Marilyn Anderson, John Barrington, and Laura Griffith.

## Guadalupe Stands Out at TMN Roundtable

By Nancy Masterson

Two members of the Guadalupe Chapter were invited panelists at the Texas Master Naturalist state conference this year. Mark deKiewiet and I were among 9 speakers at the 2-hour Texas Junior Master Naturalist (JMN) virtual roundtable on October 16, 2020.

The program began by revealing the results of a state-wide survey on the status of youth outreach among chapters. In 2015, ten chapters had youth programs, but in 2020, only five chapters had any youth offerings at all, although several others have hopes to start one. Our Guadalupe chapter is the only one with two programs; Discovery for kids K-4 and Mark deKiewiet's 4-H/Junior MN pilot for high schoolers. Not only that, we are the only chapter with a ten-month schedule (not just summer), not run a city park or museum employee and not an after-school club started by teachers. Little wonder why our chapter was invited!

The state survey also probed reasons why more chapters don't reach out to young people and asked the panelists to highlight their solutions. If there's no interest in the rules of a JMN certification, develop an original, fun, engaging drop-in series like we did. If the chapter is concerned about insurance, partner with a public library, a city park or 4-H like we did. With COVID-19 as a worry, convert programs to no-touch, outdoor, small group, guided nature walks as we are.

For many chapters, recruiting volunteers to work with kids is the biggest deterrent. What has made our Discovery Series supported by over half of our members? Perhaps it's the sense of ownership of our own programs and kits. Maybe it's the engagement of volunteer teams who work together and teach each other. We've tried to make it easy to lead and easy to learn with a standard Interpretative Outline. We hold only one meeting a year, but de-briefing after every session assures that we listen to volunteers' opinions. Or maybe because, as naturalists, we love the outdoors and just want to share it with our community.

The Hays County chapter is already asking how they can do a Discovery series, too. Recordings of the annual meeting will be online for the next 6 months. To watch it, go to [txmn.tamu.edu/2020-annual-meeting](https://txmn.tamu.edu/2020-annual-meeting) and follow the prompts to the Texas Junior Master Naturalist Program Roundtable on Friday, Oct. 16, 2020 from 10 am-12 pm.

## Mexican or Texas Buckeye

By Clara Mae Marcotte

A shrub which grows well in my backyard is the Mexican or Texas Buckeye which is actually not a member of the buckeye family. Instead, it is in the soapberry family. *Ungnadia speciosa* is a lovely small tree with a distribution range from northern Mexico to southern New Mexico. (*Ungnadia* is another monotypic genus with only *speciosa* as a member.)

The leaves remind me of soapberry. Wildflower.org describes them as growing up to twelve inches long with a central axis supporting two to six paired leaflets and a terminal one. None of my sources mention that the leaves have a slight but nice odor, although most mention that the flowers are fragrant.

The common name for the plant according to Jan Wrede comes from the brown seeds which are found in a three-lobed capsule. This three-lobed capsule description is found in many sources including Jan Wrede's *Trees, Shrubs and Vines of the Texas Hill Country*, Matt Warnock Turner's *Remarkable Plants of Texas*, Wildflower.org, and aggie-horticulture. Yet when I went out to my tree and picked the fruit, every third one was four-lobed. Interesting, and I have no idea what that means.

The deciduous tree normally grows eight to twelve feet high although it could reach thirty feet. It is multi-trunked but can be trained to one trunk to make a small tree. The flowers appear before or with the leaves and are absolutely beautiful. They are a favorite of bees and butterflies, and are a larval host of the Henrys Elfin butterfly. This heat tolerant, drought-resistant shrub is also resistant to cotton root rot. It is happy in neutral alkaline soil, and in rocky, sandy, sandy loam, medium loam, clay, caliche and limestone based soil; therefore, it is perfect for Guadalupe County.

Wildflower.org and aggie-horticulture both list Mexican buckeye seeds as poisonous. Wrede adds that they can pass through the human digestive tract without causing harm (I assume this means not chewed).

Turner looks at Mexican buckeye seeds archeologically. Seeds and pods in the Trans-Pecos area have been found dating as far back as 7000 BCE, and in Coahuila, Mexico, as far back as 7500 BCE. They were found at archeological sites both in cooking pits, as well as stored in baskets. Turner says the seeds contain high quantities of cyanogenetic lipids and are assumed to be toxic. He conjectures several uses of the seed: as a poison applied to projectile points, as a psychotropic drug used with mescal beans, and possibly as a foodstuff. Turner cites instances of people eating beans and dying, as well as instances of eating and not dying. He offers several ideas relating to toxicity, including the possibility that the seeds could be toxic until they are fully ripe, or the possibility that cooking before eating allows the volatile compound to detoxify. He concludes his conjectures with the thought that perhaps indigenous people simply collected the seeds as ornamentation. With all this in mind, don't eat the seeds



## CHAPTER BUSINESS

New Officers to be elected at December meeting/party:

President Mark de Kiewiet

Secretary Kathy Pearson

Treasurer Craig Sagebiel

### 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** – **NEW Chair needed!** 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.

Page 10

**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.



It's that time again!

Chapter Dues need to be paid by all certified Master Naturalists by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**\$25.00**

Pay at the November or December meetings or mail to Tom Hardaway  
1471 Savannah Prairie  
Seguin, TX 78155

**NEXT NEWSLETTER**

send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, [MarilynA@access4less.net](mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net).

December 30 for the January 2021 issue.

Officers:

President – Tom Hardway	tehardaway@yahoo.com
Vice-president – Jennifer Ehlers	ehlers@gvec.net
Secretary – Sharon Frels	sfrels1@gmail.com
Treasurer – John Edson	johnledson@gmail.com

Committee Chairmen:

Program – Clara Mae Marcotte	rcm.marcotte@gmail.com
Training Class – Marilyn Anderson	MarilynA@access4less.net
Nature Education – Nancy Masterson	nsethermasterson@gmail.com
Citizen Science – Tom Hardaway	tehardaway@yahoo.com
Advanced Training – Cinde Thomas-Jimenez	cthomas-jimenez@gbra.org
Communications – Michelle Darnell	mdsarnelltex@gmail.com
Membership – Michelle Darnell	mdsarnelltex@gmail.com
Fund Raising – Craig Sagebiel	prcraigsagebiel@yahoo.com
Hospitality – Mary Styblo	drstyblo@hotmail.com



<https://txmn.org/guadalupe/>  
The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and  
Texas Parks and Wildlife

