



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.

Guadalupe Master Naturalists Monthly Program and Meeting



**No Chapter meetings will be held in June or July.
Next meeting will be August 23, 2021.**

VOLUNTEER OPPERTUNITIES

The Nature Education Discovery Series has more dates coming up in June and July and we need **YOU** to volunteer. If you've never stepped up before, take a look at the program outlines for Discover Clues and Traces (Sat. morning June 12 at Crescent Bend and Monday afternoon June 14 at Seguin Library) and Discover Horns and Thorns (Saturday July 10 and Monday July 12.)

Who wouldn't have fun showing families bird nests, snake skins and animal tracks? Or telling them about venomous, pokey, stinky and camouflaged critters? In the new trail walk format, you're only teaching one family at a time, so it's a great experience for a first timer.

Discover Clues and Traces

Date: Saturday, June 12, 2021

Time: staggered start times 9:30 – 10:00 AM

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, Schertz

Leader: Tom Hardaway

Volunteers: Gayle Temple, Laura Griffith, Mark de Kiewiet

Please arrive at 8:30 A.M.





Date: Monday, June 14, 2021

Time: staggered start times 3:30 – 4:00 PM

Location: Seguin Public Library, 313 W. Nolt

Leader: Tom Hardaway

Volunteers: Larry White, Debra Windsor, Ray Windsor, Kate Schnautz

Please arrive at 2:30 P.M.

Description: Wildlife is all around you hidden in plain sight. Most animals stay hidden, but they leave behind traces and clues to their presence, identity and lives.

Contact: Tom Hardaway at tehardaway@yahoo.com or

Up and Coming: Volunteers are needed for our summer programs!

Discover Horns and Thorns will be on July 10 at Crescent Bend Park and July 12 at Seguin Public Library, led by Larry White. **Volunteers are needed** so sign up by email to Larry at uhu2you@hotmail.com

Summer Opportunity at Schertz YMCA

Our expansion to the Schertz YMCA kids in June is being spearheaded by Kim Lewis and Jennifer Ehlers. Kim has worked with the YMCA staff to ensure that the groups will be no more than 12 kids at a time [12:1 ratio]



Dates: Tuesday, June 8 and Tuesday, June 15

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 AM [young children] and 2:00 – 3:30 PM [4-6th graders]

Location: Schlather Intermediate School, 230 Elaine S Schlather Pkwy, Cibolo, TX

Dates: Thursday, June 10 and Thursday, June 17

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 AM [young children] and 2:00 – 3:30 PM [4-6th graders]

Location: Journey Fellowship Church, 16847 IH-35, Schertz, TX

You'll get training outlines this week. Thank you to all those who have volunteered with Kim so contact her at jkaco@flash.net or at 210-273-6417 or Jennifer at ehlers@gvec.net

This is a huge opportunity for us to reach a greater audience in Schertz. Please contact Kim or Jennifer to become a part of this exciting new partnership.

M. O. Neasloney Wildlife Management Area

Dates/Times: vary with volunteer schedule

Description: Several of our Chapter members volunteer to help Trent Teinert, TPWD Natural Resources Specialist, with various tasks. If you are interested, **please contact Trent** to set up a day/time to go out and determine what he needs help with. If not familiar with Neasloney, it is 100 acres located in Gonzales County, south of Luling, midway between Luling and Gonzales. Mr. M.O. Neasloney donated the property to the Wildlife Division to be developed as a wildlife education center. It is also Mr. Neasloney's burial place. The WMA is used primarily for wildlife ecology field tours by public school groups. Outdoor recreational opportunities include wildlife viewing, hiking and an interpretive nature trail.

Location: 20700 SH 80 North, Gonzales, TX 78629 [between Belmont and Luling]

Contact: Trent Teinert, trent.teinert@tpwd.texas.gov or (830) 424-3407

Pollinator Garden at Park West

Date: Wednesday mornings, April 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021

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 rain is fostering rapid weed growth and the team is still hoping to spot Monarchs.



Leaders: Clara Mae Marcotte, Liz Romero

Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary

Dates/Times: Vary

Description: Assist with building owl boxes, general maintenance, golf cart repairs/maintenance

Location: Warbler Woods, 19349 Old Wiederstein Rd, Cibolo, TX

Contact: Sandy Wheeler at wheels5683@gmail.com

Entomology Creek Studies

Dates: Tuesday, June 22; Wednesday, June 23; Thursday, June 24

Time: Instructional Time: 10:00 am – 12:00pm

Lunch: 12:00 – 1:00pm

Instructional Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm



Description:

- Tuesday will be dedicated to **Plant Diversity** at the creek and seed balls
- Wednesday will be **Insect Diversity** at the creek
- Thursday will be **sampling invertebrates** from the creek to determine water quality.

Lead instructor will be Paul Martin. Paul is a long-time Seguin resident, agricultural entomologist & ecologist. He worked for the Texas Department of Agriculture and was an Assistant Professor of Biology at St. Phillips College in San Antonio.

Marilyn's note: I promise – you will learn SO MUCH assisting Paul; well worth your time to sign up for these children's summer classes.

Any amount of time you are able to share for these activities is very much appreciated.
Thanks in advance.

Contact: Michelle Darnell, Environmental Education Site Coordinator
Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center
eesc.solc@gmail.com or 210-601-8957

Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center Summer Camps

Milisia Bielstein, Director of Operations and Development at ILSOLC, is looking for Master Naturalist volunteers to teach nature programs for their summer camps. You can establish your own date/time as she will be **very** flexible in the scheduling. Also, your lesson does not have to conform to the “theme of the week!”



This is our opportunity to reach local children and impact their learning and love of nature.

Summer Camp information:

Week 1: June 14-18	T.E.A.M (team building activities)
Week 2: June 21-25	Theme is not confirmed
Week 3: June 28-July 2	Into The wild [Camping themed, plant/tree id, Leave No Trace, knots, etc]
Week 4: July 12-16	HUNTER'S ED and Angler's ED week (Game Wardens have all activities)
Week 5: July 19-23	What's In Your Backyard? (Activities geared toward insects, birds, conservation)
Week 6: July 26-30	WATER or Texas themed

Camp activities 10a-4p (Lunch 12:00-12:30)

Grade levels: 1st-8th

Groups ratio: 1:10 (counselor: camper) YEA!!

Group 1 and 2: 1st-2nd

Group 3: 3rd-4th

Group 4: 5th-8th

Total campers per week: 40

Contact: Milisia Bielstein, 830-379-7652 or info@solc.org



Forest Health

Work will return with cooler temperatures in the Fall.



Citizen Science

Pollinator Week Bioblitz on iNaturalist

Date: June 21-27, 2021

Description: Take part in the 2021 Pollinator Week Bioblitz on iNaturalist! Join this community science project to help collect data on the distribution of pollinators across the United States, Canada, and Mexico during Pollinator Week (June 21st-27th). This project is easy to join, and consists of taking pictures of pollinators and the flowers they are visiting and uploading them to iNaturalist to be included in the dataset

Pollinator Week is an annual event celebrated internationally in support of pollinator health. This **citizen science project** is hosted by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign's (NAPPC) Urban Pollinator Taskforce. Join this project to help collect data on the distribution of pollinators across the US, Canada, and Mexico

<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/pollinator-week-2021-pollinator-bioblitz>



Texas Stream Team

Standard Core Water Quality Citizen Scientist Trainings

Dates/Times: Sunday June 20 / 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Not provided; email bobcatsreamteam@txstate.edu to request information



Description: Standard Core monitoring involves performing tests for parameters such as conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, total depth, water and air temperature, and water transparency using a chemical Standard Core kit. In addition to these parameters, Standard Core citizen scientists also conduct various field observations. Register ASAP due to limited seating.

RSVP by emailing bobcatsreamteam@txstate.edu or go to the calendar at <https://teamup.com/ksos37y3n9acgt5pk5>, select the date and filling out the form on the link.

ADVANCED TRAINING

Conservation Gardening Series: Turf Grasses and their Alternatives

Date: Thursday, June 3

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Location: On-line; register at <https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/events/>

Description: Our soil and climate conditions are not conducive to traditional turf grasses. We do have some options but even more alternatives. Learn all about grasses for South Texas. Join our Conservation Team as they walk you through all you need to know about turf grasses for our area.

Sponsor: San Antonio Water System

Native Plant Guided Tour

Date: Saturday, June 5, 2021

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 am

Description: Explore our 11 – acre Texas Native Trail with Master Naturalists. Learn about how native plants conserve water, adapt to their environment, and work in landscapes and what their growing requirements are. Topics include medicinal uses of native plants as well as their historical and cultural uses, and which are favored by birds, butterflies and other wildlife. There are more than 250 plant species in collections that represent three ecosystems. Sponsored by San Antonio Water System. Face coverings required. Space is limited.

Location: San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio

Fee: \$15 (\$13.50 for SABOT members)

Information/Register: <https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/events/>

TMN Tuesday – Dragonflies – Pond Patrol

Date: Tuesday, June 8

Time: 12:00 noon

Description: This month we get to celebrate the dragonfly, as we bring in TWPD Urban Biologist Sam Kieschnick. Beautiful, intricate, active predators throughout their lives, the best natural mosquito control, and numerous in Texas – dragonflies! Sam will lead us in an exploration of these amazing insects. Learn all about their biology, their importance in the ecosystem, and how they do what they do. We'll also talk about how to document these predators and learn how to fill in some of the data gaps of their distribution. Hopefully, we'll guide you in some new and fun ways to appreciate these magnificent critters while also contributing to their conservation and management!



Location: Webex - <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/#june>

Guadalupe Co. Native Plant Society Chapter Meeting

Texas Cacti

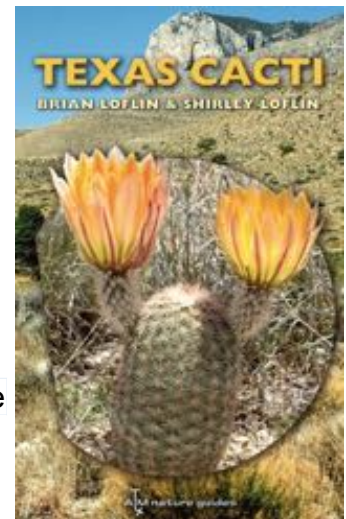
When: Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Time: 6:30 – Social time – bring your own drinks, no food provided

7:00 – Presenter

8:00 – Business meetings

Description: Brian and Shirley Loflin, the authors of "Texas Cacti" will discuss some of the 150 genera of cacti found in Texas and describe how they have been used by Native Americans and landscapers. Best of all, he will share some of his personal experiences researching cacti across the state.



Our chapter Board would like to encourage the wearing of masks but we will not require them - whether vaccinated or not.

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church, FM 465, Marion, TX

Be the Change -

Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Time: 12:00 noon

Description: The Texas Master Naturalist Program is happy to announce a new mini-webinar series, "Be The Change", dedicated to exploring diversity, equity & inclusion opportunities in our natural resource and conservation community. Just as the natural world thrives with biodiversity, our Texas Master Naturalist Program is dedicated to engaging all audiences in conservation, education and stewardship.

June presenter/program information not available at this time. Check website for update:

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/bethechange/>



Lindheimer Chapter
Texas Master Naturalist Program



Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Who: Craig Hensley, Texas Nature Trackers Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

What: "Anatomy of a Butterfly Survey"

Where: Online via WEBEX



Members: Login to our Members Area for the Link (you'll need the chapter password)
Non-members: Email LindheimerMNCContact@gmail.com



Join Texas Nature Trackers Biologist Craig Hensley to learn about Butterfly Surveys!

From Craig: The use of butterfly surveys for conservation has been on-going in many parts of the world for some time, including the North America Butterfly Association's annual 4th of July Count. Documenting butterfly abundance over time can help determine population trends – positive and negative, distribution of species, including changes associated with climate change, and ultimately help determine conservation strategies for them. Different techniques are used to survey butterflies from formal transects to general surveys, and bring together people of all

experience levels and experience in their identification. This in-depth presentation will reveal how these surveys are being used to for conservation of individual species to butterflies overall. If you have not yet become involved in on-going butterfly surveys, this presentation will, we hope, inspire you to become involved in on-going local community science opportunities, from that at Guadalupe River State Park and Becken Cave Preserve, or simply documenting what species are visiting your yard or property using iNaturalist.



JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL

PLANT PARTY

THE LOWDOWN ON INVASIVES

JUNE 23, 2021

FREE, Informal and FUN!

Topics Covered:

- "Terms" of Invasion
- What Makes Invasive Plants Invasive?
- The Impact of Invasive Plants
- Biological Control: A Case Study
- The Influence of Invasive Plants on Pollinators

Event Details

Cost: Free

Time: 10 - 11:30 AM CST

To register:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PlantParty3>

GREAT DOOR PRIZES will be given away throughout the party! Register for your chance to win.

For more information:

Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu, Tim.Siegmund@tpwd.texas.gov, or Charles.Kneuper@usda.gov

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



USDA
United States
Department of
Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Honeyvine, a Climbing Milkweed
by Clara Mae Marcotte

This plant is very much like a hackberry tree. It has all kinds of good reasons to have it in your landscape, but also has reasons why you hate it. *Cynanchum laeve* is in the milkweed family (an apocynaceae) and has many common names including honeyvine, blue vine, sand vine and smooth swallow-wort. Wildflower.org does not have much information other than the plant is a perennial vine. Most of my information comes from Michael Eason's Wildflowers of Texas, MonarchWatch, and the website InDefenseofPlants.com.



When I first saw this vine growing on my Possumhaw and my Barbados cherry, I assumed it was pearl milkweed. Then it bloomed and I saw an umbel of flowers coming from the leaf axil. It was definitely not pearl milkweed. Still, it has that pretty leaf and it's a milkweed. Why don't I like it? It acts like bindweed and seriously ruined one branch of my Possumhaw. I spend some time every week making sure that it only grows on things I don't really care about, like the Turk's Cap.

This common perennial is found throughout Central Texas, north to Oklahoma and east into Louisiana. MonarchWatch adds that it also is found in Idaho, Missouri, Kansas, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

The heart-shaped leaves are opposite, and are on petioles one and three fourths inches long. One note on the Wildflower.org site called the plant a suffrutescent vine which was a new word for me. It means having a base that is somewhat woody and does not die down each year. (And, yes, it came back after that hard freeze and already has buds coming along).

The plant grows in fields, brush and woodlands, roadsides, fence lines, and likes dry, alkaline soil and semi shade. The follicle (I looked the word up: a dry fruit that is derived from a single carpel and opens on one side only to release its seeds) is smooth, lanceolate, and angled to six inches long.

The InDefenseofPlants site has photographs of monarch larvae feeding on this plant, and it is listed on the MonarchWatch site, so it is definitely a possibility for your monarch garden. Since the flowers smell like honey, the flowers are also visited by small solitary bees.

InDefenseofPlants cites an article by Kenneth Yeagan and Cora Allard titled "Comparison of Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and Honeyvine Milkweed (*Cynanchum laeve*) as Host Plants for Monarch Larvae" as published in the 2005 Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society. Their findings showed that larvae developed faster on honeyvine milkweed than on common milkweed, while average pupal weights appeared to be slightly greater for larvae on common milkweed than those on honeyvine milkweed. The statistical difference was not significant. Larval survival was about 14 percent higher on common milkweed, but again, not a significant difference. They interpreted their results to show that both species are suitable hosts for monarchs, and since there is such an abundance of honeyvine milkweed around, it may be a more important host plant than previously thought.

If you decide after these findings that you still don't want to fight the bindweed effect, good luck. That taproot goes down two meters!

MOSQUITO TIME

by Deborah Benbow

It's that time of year again. Mosquito time. Of course, in Texas, we can enjoy mosquitoes pretty much all year long.

In case you are interested, there are 3,000 + species of mosquitoes world wide. Of these, at least 174 species live in America and 84 reside in the state of Texas.

Male mosquitoes feed on plant nectar and juices, but not on animals. Only the female bites people and animals. Females seek blood to nourish and develop their eggs, of which they can deposit anywhere from 30 to 300 on any given event. And, if they are not slapped or otherwise killed, they can lay eggs three times in their normal lifespan of about 7 days (longer, in some cases.) In order to obtain this blood meal, some mosquitoes have been known to travel 20 miles to seek a victim. (How they tracked this mosquito is anybody's guess.)



The mosquito is more attracted to Type O blood. Type A is their second choice. (Makes you wonder how they can tell blood type.) They seek you out from the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) that you emit, and also use their receptors and keen vision to pick up other clues, such as body heat, perspiration, skin odor or bacteria present on the skin. They prefer dark colors. Special warning to party goers. They really like beer drinkers. Who thought mosquitoes were party animals?

Mosquitoes are also infamous carriers of some bad diseases. In fact, some authorities claim that mosquitoes have killed more people than any other animal since the beginning of time. Some of these pathogens include West Nile (a fairly recent invasive pathogen to Texas and the U.S.), St Louis encephalitis, and avian malaria.

There is one variety called the "house mosquito" because they prefer humans to other hosts. They also prefer to bite at night. Another nice import (about 1985) is the Asian Tiger Mosquito, which can transmit the Zika Virus, West Nile and dengue fever. They are very aggressive and feed primarily during the daylight hours.

So, how do you repel the buggers? Around our house, first of all, we try, after a rain, to dump all vessels that can hold water. Mosquitoes don't need much water to reproduce. A tablespoon out in the yard can hold enough water for a batch of eggs. Mosquito dunks in ditches help, and various sprays are effective, but be careful not to overdo it to the harm of your thirsty birds.

Some plants are effective mosquito repellants, so they tell us. Some of these plants are 1. Lavender 2. Marigolds 3. Citronella grass 4. Cat nip 5. Rosemary 6. Basil 7. Scented geraniums 8. Bee balm (a variety of this grows wild on our place.) 9. Mint 10. Lantana 11. Sage 12. Clove.

The Carancahua Indians, which once inhabited the Coastal Bend of Texas, had their own peculiar repellant. During mosquito season, they would lather their entire body from head to toe, with alligator grease. This not only held down the mosquito population, it may have also made a serious dent in the propagation of the Carancahua Indian population. Now, however, the Indians are gone, but the mosquitoes are still here.

THE EASTERN MOLE – *Scalopus aquaticus*
by Dave Benbow



For some reason, for the last couple of years, we have endured an infestation of the glamorous Eastern Mole. We've lived here in our rural retreat for twenty years and all of a sudden, we have what seems like miles of mole tunnels.

Experts tell us that moles really don't hurt anything, other than making your yard look like plowed ground. Oh, and stepping on a tunnel run and sinking a few inches in the ground when you take a stroll on the lawn.

Moles are rarely seen because they spend over ninety percent of their life below the ground. In fact, the first and only mole I've ever seen was a dead one captured and dispatched by one of our cats (all of whom live out of doors.) Other than being dead, the mole seemed otherwise untouched. I guess the cat just wanted to display its trophy for us to see.

So, what are moles, really? They are not rodents, although they remind you of them. They are a fairly unique animal, in that they are the only species of *Scalopus* in Texas. They are fossorial, meaning they are diggers and spend a lot of time underground. The one I saw was a lot bigger than I thought they were. It was a male, over six inches long and rather heavy set, especially in the chest and front paws. Moles have powerful, shovel shaped front claw-armed feet, which permits their vigorous digging. They are virtually blind, perhaps only able to sense light and not much else. They are remarkable diggers, with the ability to tunnel up to twenty yards (meters) in a single day. Some mole observers suggest that they may have tunnels up to one kilometer in length (.625 miles).

They are generally solitary, except for mating season, as you might expect. They have an annual litter of two to five "pups" which gestate for 45 days, and are forced to "leave the house" after about four weeks.

One of their main drawbacks, in my opinion, besides digging up the yard, is their preferred diet of earthworms. They can eat up to half their weight in a single day. I like having earthworms in my yard, not on their buffet. On the other hand, they do eat grubs and other ground dwelling creatures. (Although we have not suffered a shortage of June Bugs, which start out as ground dwelling grubs.) My research suggest that unlike gophers, they do not eat roots of live plants.

If you happen to catch a live one, don't try to make a pet out of it. They harbor a lot of nasty parasites, such as lice, fleas and mites.

I believe I said they were blind. In fact, you can't even see their eyes through their fur. They make up for this disability, however, with powerful senses of smell and touch, abetted by that long snout that helps make them the beauty of an animal that they are.

They carry the scientific name of *Scalopus aquaticus*. You might wonder how a subterranean animal acquired an aquatic label. Apparently, early naturalists were misled by the presence of the webbed foot, making them think that the mole was aquatic. Although they are reportedly good swimmers (how they found that out I do not know) the webbed feet with the huge claws are there to create an efficient digging machine. Also, supposedly, the first specimen they discovered was dead in the water (which would seem to belie the swimming ability.)

So, how do you get rid of them? I still haven't figured that out. Professional exterminators make their claims, but the expense of elimination is probably more than the damage they cause.

Training Class News

Pam Sagebiel is serving as the chairman of the 2021 Training Class and she has been busy preparing the application and organizing the class schedule. A new flier for advertising the class is ready for you to disseminate; a copy is attached to this newsletter email. I have also attached copies of the cover letter / application.

PLEASE

Your help is needed to **recruit students** for the class starting Tuesday, August 10. Class will be held at AgriLife Extension, and other locations, from 1:00 - 5:00. And of course, there will be exciting field trips.

Chapter News

- ✓ Our **Chapter Operating Handbook** has been revised by Chris Dyess and Craig Wagner. It will be distributed to our members in the weeks to come for a vote in late summer.
- ✓ President Mark de Kiewiet has received the special **Against All Odds** pins from the state office for those eligible. Pins will be distributed at our monthly Chapter meetings.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net by June 25 for the July 2021 issue.

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Secretary –Rebeca Leininger

Treasurer – Craig Sagebiel

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Training Class – Pam Sagebiel

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Citizen Science – Tom Hardaway

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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

