



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 meeting will be held in July.
Next meeting will be August 23, 2021.**

VOLUNTEER OPPERTUNITIES

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 Horns and Thorns

Date: Saturday, July 10 2021

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

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, Schertz

Leader: Larry White

Volunteers:

Please arrive at 8:30 A.M.



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Date: Monday, July 12, 2021

Time: staggered start times 9:30 – 10:00 AM [**note new morning time!**]

Location: Seguin Public Library, 313 W. Nolte

Leader: Larry White

Volunteers:

Please arrive at 9:00 A.M.



Description: The objective of this program is to teach children how plants and animals survive in nature and to give families a positive experience with Texas Master Naturalists.

Contact: Larry White @ uhu2you@hotmail.com to volunteer

Discovery Programs for September-October-November 2021

A half-dozen members of the Nature Education Committee met in May to review our recent trail-walk format and decide on programs and policies for the fall. We all liked the increased parent engagement of having families walk together from naturalist to naturalist. By questionnaires and in-person voting, the group chose Discovery programs for the fall. They are:

Discover Dinosaurs Saturday morning, September 11 at Crescent Bend Park
Monday afternoon, September 13 at Seguin Library

Discover A Bug's World Saturday morning, October 9 at Crescent Bend Park
Monday afternoon, October 11 at Seguin Library

Discover Early Texans Monday afternoon, November 8 at Seguin Library
Saturday morning, November 13 at Crescent Bend Park

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, July 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

Forest Health

Work will return with cooler temperatures in the Fall.



ADVANCED TRAINING

Plant Defense: Eternal Battle with Animals and Pathogens

Collins County Chapter - Native Plant Society of Texas

Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: ZOOM

Description: A presentation by Dr. George Diggs, a Professor of Biology and Co-Director of the Public Health Program at Austin College in Sherman, TX. His research interests include the flora of Texas, evolution as it relates to human health, biogeography, and the systematics of the Ericaceae (the blueberry family). Dr. Diggs has co-authored four books and more than 30 scientific articles, and has given hundreds of public lectures. In his research, he has traveled to all seven continents. He is the Donald MacGregor Chair of Natural Science at Austin College and a Research Associate at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas.

Registration Link: <https://npsot.org/wp/virtual/event/plant-defense-eternal-battle-with-animals-and-pathogens-july-6/>

Wicked Plants of Central Texas - Wilco Chapter - Native Plant Society of Texas

Date: Thursday, July 8, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: ZOOM

Description: Beth Erwin will speak on a few of the plants you might meet when out and about in our area that you should socially distance yourself from.

Registration Link: <https://npsot.org/wp/virtual/event/wicked-plants-of-central-texas-july-8/>



TMN Tuesday –

Texas Watershed Protection Planning: Addressing Water Quality and Quantity Issues in Texas

Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Time: 12:00 noon

Description: Learn all about water resources in Texas with Texas Water Resources Institute research specialist Clare Escamilla. The presentation will provide background on water resources in Texas and how it is managed through state and regional planning. We'll provide an overview of water quality in Texas and what is being done to improve water quality around Texas. Topics include: watershed protection planning, targeting mailings, and educational programs. There will also be a discussion on what individuals and groups can do to conserve water, prevent nonpoint source pollution, and volunteer with organizations in the future.

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

Registration Link: <https://tpwdevents3000.webex.com/tpwdevents3000/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8d2dd39f2446b9f380213dab3b2baccb>

Be the Change -

Date: Tuesday, July 20 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.

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

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

July Chapter Meeting, Lindheimer Chapter, Texas Master Natutralist

Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Online via WebEx or in person at Tye Preston Memorial Library, 16311 S Access Rd, Canyon Lake, TX

Description: Currently not available;

check website <https://txmn.org/lindheimer/chapter-info/next-meeting/>

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.

MEET & GREET



Please invite potential class members to our Meet and Greet events!

Tuesday, July 13 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Schertz Senior Center, 608 Schertz Parkway

Wednesday, July 14 6:00 – 7:00 PM
AgriLife Extension, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin

Chapter News

- ✓ Did you order a Master Naturalist t-shirt? We still have several in the office for members who wanted a new shirt. Please pick up your shirt and leave payment in the envelope on the table. Make checks payable to Guadalupe Master Naturalists as the Chapter paid for the order. **THANKS!!**
- ✓ 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

NOXIOUS NATIVES – SILVERLEAF NIGHTSHADE

by David Benbow

If you happen to be on a hike, or a field trip, and you spot a rather attractive grayish green plant with pretty purple flowers, refrain from picking them. Or, at least, use gloves. It might very well be a Silverleaf Nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*).



THEY STING

Why wear gloves? It is armed with small, hard to see spines all along the stalk, and if you touch the stalk with your bare fingers, you will be stung like the dickens. It will hurt for quite a while, and you might develop a rash if you are especially sensitive to the toxins in the plant.

They are front and center among the most noxious of Texas natives that are also somewhat invasive.

WHAT ARE THEY?

Silverleaf Nightshade is a tap-rooted perennial herb related to both tomatoes and potatoes. It grows up to three feet high in good soil conditions. It is native to the Texas Plains and other southwestern locations. It blooms and fruits all summer, from May to October. It resembles Goat Weed or Dove Weed (*Croton capitatus*), but has a wavy edge on leaves that grow up to five inches long.

Nightshade propagates by both seed and creeping root stalks. Once they get started in your yard or pasture, they are difficult to eradicate. Pulling them up, (with thick gloves), still leaves the creeping root in the ground, only to produce more Nightshade. (Kind of like Sedge).

Livestock, including cattle and horses, generally avoid the plant, and I know that consumption by cattle can be fatal. I heard this in a conversation with a rancher who had forgotten that he had latched up a single cow in a pen with no vegetation or feed, except from some flourishing Nightshade. The poor animal ate some out of desperation, and the next morning the rancher found a deceased cow in his pen, along with some well munched Nightshade. Goats and sheep are less affected, and one study with goats found no effects from Nightshade consumption. I suspect that deer avoid the plant, based on my own observations. I have quite a few deer on my place, and lots of unmolested, un-nibbled Nightshade.

Some birds eat the seeds, although I couldn't find which ones in any of the articles I read. I would suppose that seed consumption by birds would be a mechanism by which the plant would spread over wide areas.

ATTRACTION FOR POLLINATORS

They grow along waterways in the Sonoran Desert, and I read that Sonoran Bumblebees are active among the blooms in the early AM. Even though I have not personally observed bees or butterflies on my own numerous plants, they may very well attract pollinators.

MEDICINAL USES

The toxins in the plant actually can be adapted for medicines. Modern medical practice uses toxins from Nightshades in cancer and herpes treatment. The early Indians, some of whom really were master naturalists, found various parts of the plant, such as chewed root, to be pain killers, especially for toothache, and even a poultice for snake bite. The berries were used for other native medicines. When you read articles about this, it's hard not to be impressed with Native medicine men, but then you read about Cabeza de Vaca, a marooned Spanish aristocrat who spent eight years among many Native American tribes, and he literally saved his own life by "faking it" as a medicine man.

SO, HOW DO YOU GET RID OF THEM?

Hoing, mowing, and weeding may actually worsen the problem. Ranchers use Grazon and other herbicides for control. I also read that certain nematodes (*Orrina phyllobia*) can be effective. These nematodes cause galls to form on roots and stems.

Silverleaf Nightshade is not a welcome visitor to your yard, garden or pasture. However, if you have annoying neighbors who like to sneak into your flower bed and pick bouquets surreptitiously, they might be a clever addition.

Obedient Plant, a member of the mint family

by Clara Mae Marcotte



One of the plants that is really doing well in my yard with no help from me is my Obedient plant, called fall obedient plant, (or spring obedient plant), false dragonhead, and lionheart. The plant is also planted in a low spot in the Park West pollinator garden. *Physostegia intermedia* is the spring obedient plant and flowers from May to July. *Physostegia virginiana* is the fall obedient plant and blooms August to November. Mine is about four feet high and is not blooming yet this year (although with the interesting weather we've had, this probably doesn't mean anything).

Susan Hamby in a NPSOT Plant of the Month June 2017 article lumps both of the above species together except for their blooming time. Wildflower.org lists the native distribution of the virginiana as East and North Central Texas.

Campbell and Loughmiller in Texas Wildflowers say that *P. praemorsa* is the only *Physostegia* that blooms in the fall in its range (which is East Texas). From all of my generalizing you can see that I have no idea which *Physostegia* we have growing around here.

Wildflower.org describes virginiana as a perennial that grows in clumps, and intermedia as a perennial that has stems that are solitary. Mine has solitary stems that grow in clumps. Virginiana's flowers are tubular with five triangular lobes, two forming an upper lip and three forming a lower lip. Intermedia's flowers are funnel-shaped and clustered in terminal spikes. Both plants like moist soil and the intermedia can also be grown in shallow, standing water. The plants attract butterflies, hummingbirds, nectar bees and nectar insects. They are highly deer resistant.

Physostegia is easy to establish and maintain. Wildflower adds that it can become aggressive but the roots are easy to pull out. My plant came from a stolon dug out of my neighbor's flower bed.

According to Campbell and Loughmiller, the common name comes from the fact that the flowers grow straight up and down the stem on all four sides and may be moved laterally (like the pages in a book). They will remain in the new position. Susan Hamby adds that the genus name, *Physostegia*, is derived from the Greek word physa (which means bladder) and stegē (covering), because of the inflated calyx that covers the ripening fruits.



Hamby suggests deadheading to encourage a second flowering and says plants may require staking if they get floppy. She adds that plants should not be fertilized and should be planted in inferior soil. The plants at Park West are having some problems with insect damage and frass on the growing tips. Luckily there are many plants and all are growing vigorously.



NEXT NEWSLETTER

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net. by Friday, July 30 for the August 2021 issue.

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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

