



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

Date: Monday, August 23, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Description: Charlotte Reemts will talk about Natural Climate Solutions. Charlotte is an ecologist and science project director with The Nature Conservancy's Texas Chapter. The Nature Conservancy works around the world to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends, to fight climate change, and to slow the loss of biodiversity. Charlotte has 16 years of experience helping preserve and manage wildlife habitat in Texas.



FYI-In the spirit of good stewardship, Charlotte will be presenting to us virtually.

Location: Schertz Area Senior Center, 608 Schertz Parkway, Schertz **and** on Webex

Chapter Meeting 8:00 PM

September Field Trip: Bracken Bat Cave Evening Bat Flight

Date: Friday, September 10, 2021

Time: 5:00pm to ~9:00pm Time may change some depending on weather and recent bat behavior.

Location: Bracken Bat Preserve, 26101 FM 3009, GardenRidge (about 45 minutes from Seguin)

Limit: 20 participants. RSVP to Chris Dyess, ced16123@gmail.com or text to 713-816-9499

First RSVP, first ticketed

Cost: Free



Description: The bats of Bracken Cave comprise the largest known bat maternity colony in the world, producing millions of young each year. The emergence of these millions of bats, as they spiral out of the cave at dusk for their nightly insect hunt, is an unforgettable sight. As we wait for the bats' emergence we will hear about this special colony. Join us for this opportunity to witness the bats' flight.

We will be on private property that sees lots of visitors, so there are several things we need to observe:

- Wear comfortable clothes and closed-toed shoes.
- Bring cameras (please no flash photography), binoculars, sunscreen, bug repellent, and bottled water (no coolers please).
- No pets. No alcohol.

There is a unisex Port-a-potty with hand sanitizer.

Approximately 1/2 mile on gravel trails. Please consider physical limitations and the Texas summer heat when planning your trip.

Plan to stay 2-3 hours depending on sunset. Please be on time. We cannot predict exact times when the bats will emerge, so we meet early enough so visitors have time before the emergence to learn about this important maternity colony.

VOLUNTEER OPPERTUNITIES



No Discovery programs scheduled at Crescent Bend or Seguin Public Library during August.

Thank you to GMN recent volunteers ~

In June at Discover Clues and Traces

Thank you to Tom Hardaway for leading and volunteers Larry White, Debra Windsor, Ray Windsor, Kate Schnautz, Gayle Temple, Laura Griffith and Mark deKiewiet. Attendance was:

- Schertz: 8 adults 10 children = 18 total participants
- Seguin: 4 adults 11 children = 15 tota participants

In July at Discover Horns and Thorns~

Thank you to Larry White for leading and volunteers Tom Hardaway, Liz Romero, Kate Schnautz, Gayle Temple, Rebeca Leininger, Laura Griffith, Chris Dyess and Nancy Masterson.

Attendance was:

- Schertz: 3 Adults 5 children = 8 total
- Seguin: 14 Adults 43 children = 57 total!

It's time to volunteer for our award-winning Discovery Series!

Master Naturalist volunteers make our free 1-Hour Nature Education programs possible. Our format of guided nature walks with families walking from naturalist to naturalist is fun and easy. Training documents are sent to all show sign up.

Mark your calendars for second Mondays in Seguin at Seguin Public Library, [313 W. Nolte St.](#) Start times for after-school starts are from 3:30 – 4 PM. Reserve second Saturdays in Schertz at Crescent Bend Nature Park, [12805 Schaefer Rd](#) with start times between 9:30 – 10 AM.

Discovery Programs for September-October-November 2021

Discover Dinosaurs - Dinosaur Tracts Tell Tales

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

Discover A Bug's World - The World Needs Bugs

Saturday morning, October 9 at Crescent Bend Park
Monday afternoon, October 11 at Seguin Library

Discover Early Texans - When Kids Knew How to Live Off the Land

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

**Sign up by emailing Nancy Masterson at nsethermasterson@gmail.com
or texting to **830-305-9104**.**

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, August 4, 11, 18, 25, 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

“Photographing Native Plants Outdoors for Beauty and Documentation”

Date: Monday, August 9, 2021

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Description: For the August meeting, Teri Whittaker will provide skills and pointers on photographing native plants. Clear Lake Chapter meetings are on the 2nd Monday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There is a slide show and meet and greet beginning at 6:15 p.m. followed by the business meeting at 6:30 p.m. and program at approximately 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public; visitors are welcome.

All chapter meetings will be held via Zoom

**TMNTuesday Fire in the Pines:
The Past, Present and Future of Fire in Bastrop State Park**

Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Webex

Description: Wade Powell will discuss the fire dependent ecosystem in the park including the conditions that led to the historic wildfire of 2011 and its effects on that ecosystem. We will look at the restoration techniques currently being applied and what best management practices will keep fire a healthy part of the landscape. Participants will be empowered to manage and advocate for resilient habitats.

Location: Webex

Registration Link:



Event address for attendees:	https://tpwdevents3000.webex.com/tpwdevents3000/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec2cdfde8874eb0eff2462571154c3c95
-------------------------------------	---

**Edible Wild Plants of Central Texas
Williamson Co. Native Plant Society Chapter Meeting**

Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Description: Program will be presented by Eric Knight, a native Austinite and co-author of *Foraging Texas: Finding, Identifying, and Preparing Edible Wild Plants in Texas*. Eric will discuss common native and non-native wild edible plants found during Central Texas summers.

Location: Online

Registration: Register at https://npsot-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMod-iqpzsuGtWujRcLvH_EJnKFyimHT73h.





Lindheimer Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Program™



Monthly Chapter Meeting

August 19, 2021 at 5:45 pm

"Wild Texas Cats: Past & Present"

with Monica Morrison, Founder, Texas Native Cats



Virtual Attendance via WebEx:

Members: Login to our Members Area for the WebEx Link

Non-members: Contact Lindheimer@NContact@gmail.com

Our speaker, Monica Morrison, is the founder of Texas Native Cats, an organization that educates about Texas exotic cats. Monica says: "As the founder and president of Texas Native Cats (see <https://texasnativecats.org/>), I launched the organization in 2017 after realizing our wild Texas cats need recognition and help. Prior to that, I volunteered for 20+ years with various organizations, including the Dallas Zoo, In-Sync Exotics, and organizations in South America that work to conserve wild cats. I am a member of North Texas Master Naturalists, The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Texas Wildlife Association, and the Wild Felid Management and Research Organization."



"About her presentation, she says: "Many people are unaware of the great diversity of our felines, their habitat, physical characteristics, threats currently facing them, and the importance they play in maintaining Nature's health and diversity. This presentation provides an overview of the five species of native cats, with a special emphasis on the mountain lion."

Join us to learn about these iconic Texas animals!

Be the Change -

Date: Tuesday, August 17, 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/>



Texas Master Naturalist 2021 Annual Meeting October 21st-24th

Our **22nd Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting** will be an event to gather, learn and celebrate another year of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. We're preparing this year's meeting as a **HYBRID Event** – both online and in-person at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott in Irving, Texas. The event will be held the weekend of **Thursday October 21st through Sunday the 24th, 2021** with plenty of activities throughout the event! Join us for a long weekend of greenspace adventures in the hideaways of our largest urban area in Texas.

For more information, go to the website: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2021-annual-meeting/>

Registration: Our plan is to open registration the **first week of August**. With this year's hybrid event we will have TWO registration options – **In-Person Registration** and **Virtual Registration**. Registration will be first-come, first-serve.

Native Landscaping Certification Classes

The Native Plant Society of Texas is offering 9 classes this fall in its popular Native Landscape Certification Program. At least two additional landscaping classes are expected to be offered once details are confirmed.

The classes are offered for 7 different regions around the state. Although you may register for a class in any region, you will get the most benefit from a class designed for an area near you. We are offering at least one class in each of the courses available, including Level 4. Both in-person classes and virtual classes are being offered.

Classes are intended to be useful both to homeowners and professionals. Classes have an emphasis on helping students become familiar with the identification and use of specific plants native to their region.

Texas Master Naturalists and Texas Master Gardeners count classes as training hours.

Registration: [Class Schedule | Native Landscape Certification Program \(npsot.org\)](#)

➔ **Lindheimer Chapter [Comal County] will be hosting a landscaping class in the fall at Tye Preston Library in Canyon Lake. It will be an in-person class. Check the registration link above for full details.**

Training Class News



Class Coordinator Pam Sagebiel is overjoyed to announce we have **twelve students** registered for our class which begins Tuesday, August 10. All the planning details are done, or just about done, and she is excited to get the first class day off and rolling.

If you would like to participate as a **class assistant/monitor**, please contact Pam. In this position, you will provide help to the coordinators during the class. Contact Pam and she will send you the class schedule with dates/times/speakers.

Pink Skullcap, or Not Pink Skullcap

by Clara Mae Marcotte



A funny thing happened when I looked up Pink Skullcap or *Scutellaria suffrutescens*. I basically could not find it listed in anything other than a sales site. Wildflower.org's Mr. Smarty Pants says the plant is not in the USDA Plant Database or in Wildflower's Native Plant Database. (He considered himself "stumped.") I checked Eason, Ajilvsgi, and many other authors and did not find it listed.

The only information available comes from the Denton County Master Gardeners prior to 2014. The article (found cited in Wildflower.org) says that the perennial herb is a native to the northeastern region of Mexico and received its name from the resemblance to the medieval cap worn by men. The pink blooms look like little snapdragons. The plant has a compact mounding growth habit and can be used as an edging plant or a groundcover. Prune out the old wood in early spring and shear occasionally to encourage new growth.

Mr. Smarty Pants thinks that a plant grower or writer picked the name, or that the name is misspelled. He suggested this in 2012, and that is the latest conjecture I can find.

Another *scutellaria* growing in my yard is *Scutellaria ovata* or Heartleaf Skullcap. This is also a perennial member of the mint family. It requires shade or part shade and blooms from April through June with blue violet flowers. Mine is in full sun which means that in summer it pretty well dies back and goes dormant. It does come back. (I really need to move it). Wildflower.org suggests that the plant is under-utilized by gardeners. The flowers are on spikes like salvia, the plant is a nectar source for butterflies, and it colonizes vigorously by underground fleshy roots. Another plus is that the plant has oily glands on the leaves so it is possibly deer resistant. It also attracts hummingbirds.

Michael Eason, in his *Wildflowers of Texas*, says it grows from Central Texas, east into Louisiana and north into Oklahoma. The plant is often found along woodland edges and near waterways. Geyata Ajilvsgi, in her *Wildflowers of Texas*, adds that almost every species of skullcap was formerly used medicinally. She says there are three subspecies, including *bracteata*. I have no idea which subspecies my plants are.



TOMATO HORNWORM – SPHINX MOTH

by David Benbow

I was picking the last few tomatoes of the season and it occurred to me that I haven't seen a Tomato Hornworm (*Manduca quinque macula*) in several years. I don't know what happened to them, but I can't say that I miss them. I thought maybe the Big Freeze got them, but I didn't have any last year, either.



If you have never grown tomatoes, and there are probably very few Texas Master Naturalists that have not, you might be a bit intimidated by your first encounter with the “dangerous-looking” creatures. My wife absolutely refuses to pluck the surprisingly strong, wriggling creatures off a tomato vine. Yes, they are big, green, and hard to pry loose, but they are completely harmless, unless you are a tomato leaf.

WHAT ARE THEY?

Tomato hornworms are the caterpillar stage of the Sphinx Moth, also called Hawk Moth. I am not sure if they are Texas natives, but they have been here for many generations. They are closely related to the Tobacco Hornworm (*Manduca sexta*). They are bright green, with white stripes on their sides, and a single “horn” on their rear end. They are thick-bodied, can grow up to 4 inches in length, and (to repeat myself), anyone who has ever pulled one off a tomato vine will discover the remarkable strength they display in resisting you.



The Sphinx Moth, which itself is an attractive large-bodied flying insect with a 4 to 5 inch wingspan, feeds on nectar through a siphoning mouth. I suppose this pollinating function could be considered a redeeming feature of an otherwise destructive pest.

LIFE CYCLE

The adult moth, after mating, lays eggs on any leaves that are available, including nearby weeds. The eggs then hatch out and crawl to the nearest tomato leaf. The caterpillars will also eat the leaves of peppers, eggplant, etc. in the absence of tomatoes (or tobacco). Within 3 to 4 weeks, the caterpillars reach full growth. Sometime after attaining maturity, they fall to the ground, and burrow into the soil where they transform to pupae. These pupae then grow and emerge as the next generation of moths. This process produces two generations per year, with the winter pupae having a longer resting (hibernation) period.

PEST CONTROL

They are definitely unwelcome in the caterpillar stage if you are a serious tomato grower. If you are a scientist or citizen scientist, it might be interesting to observe and record their eating and reproductive processes. You surely can't scare them off by watching them.

Most gardeners agree that the least harmful method of control is locating them, picking them off the leaf or stem and killing them. Some prefer dropping them into soapy water. I don't have the patience for that, so I usually “relocate” them under my boots.

There are some sprays that work, but again, who wants to add more poisons to the environment? Also, there are a variety of wasps that prey on them in some form, including laying their own eggs on the caterpillar. But, how do you attract these wasps? Maybe I'll find out in another article.

LOCATING THE OFFENDERS

If you've ever done this, you'll know what I'm talking about. Sometimes, the hardest part is just finding them on the plants. In spite of their size, they have serious camouflage skills. You first notice their presence when you find they have eaten most of the leaves off one or more plants. They are very fast eaters. You will also see their scat on the plants. When you start picking them off, make sure you get them all. If you don't, the remaining caterpillar/s can make short work of your garden.

Update: I have a couple of late tomatoes plants that I grow in pots, and I just discovered a rather undernourished hornworm on one of the leaves. First one I've seen in three years. It did not get a chance to reproduce.

Horns and Thorns Discover Program

During this July 12 program at the Seguin Public Library, our Chapter members engaged local children with various exciting learning activities.



Kate Schnautz demonstrates how plants protect themselves with thorns



Children are fascinated with the items Liz Romero has to show them



This large group of children listen intently as Nancy Masterson explains how animals use camouflage.



Aren't these the faces you want to see? Happy outside learning about nature!

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


Kay Robbins, a member of the 2019 Training Class, has transferred her membership to the Elm Fork Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists. She has moved to Justin, TX., a small community just north of Ft. Worth.

Kay was a very active member and we will miss her smiling face at our Chapter activities.



If you shop on Amazon, did you know Amazon Smile will donate to a favorite non-profit? Help generate addition funds for the Guadalupe Master Naturalists by selecting our Chapter to receive donations based on your purchases.

Go to smile.amazon.com or set it up from your current account.



NEXT NEWSLETTER

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, MarilynA@access4less.net. by Friday, August 27 for the September 2021 issue.

<u>Officers:</u>	
President – Mark de Kiewiet	mark.dekiewiet@att.net
Vice-president – Jennifer Ehlers	ehlers@gvec.net
Secretary –Rebeca Leininger	rsleininger@gmail.com
Treasurer – Craig Sagebiel	prcraigsagebiel@yahoo.com
<u>Committee Chairmen:</u>	
Program – Chris Dyess	ced16123@gmail.com
Training Class – Pam Sagebiel	pjsagebiel@yahoo.com
Nature Education – Nancy Masterson	nsethermasterson@gmail.com
Citizen Science – Tom Hardaway	tehardaway@yahoo.com
Advanced Training – Cinde Thomas-Jimenez	cindetjimenez@gmail.com
Communications – Michelle Darnell	mdarnelltex@gmail.com
Membership – Michelle Darnell	mdarnelltex@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

