



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

***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, September 27, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** AgriLife Extension, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin

**Description:** Mimicry, or the resemblance of one plant or animal to another, is often found in the insect world. An array of **insects** mimic other animals and plants in appearance, sounds, or behavior. Here are just five of these insects that benefit from insect mimicry. Our speaker will share information on various examples of mimicry we are likely to discover in nature.



Is it a leaf or an insect?

### **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.

**Contact:** **RSVP to Chris Dyess, [ced16123@gmail.com](mailto:ced16123@gmail.com)** or text to 713-816-9499. A limited number of spaces remain.

**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 OPPORTUNITIES

### Discover Dinosaurs - Dinosaur Tracks Tell Tales

**Date:** Saturday morning, September 11

**Time:** 9:30 – 10:00 AM staggered starts for family groups

**Location:** Crescent Bend Nature Park, [12805 Schaefer Rd.](https://www.google.com/maps/place/12805+Schaefer+Rd,+Schertz,+TX+78151-4202), Schertz

**Leader:** Chris Dyess [ced16123@gmail.com](mailto:ced16123@gmail.com) or text to 713-816-9499 to volunteer

**Volunteers – Please arrive at 8:30**



Iguanodon

**Date:** Monday afternoon, September 13

**Time:** staggered start times 3:30 – 4:00 PM for family groups

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

**Leader:** Kate Schnatuz

**Volunteers – Please arrive at 2:30**



Acrocanthosaurus

**Description:** Dinosaur tracks tell tales. Students will learn how to determine facts about 3 types of dinosaurs by examining their foot prints. They will learn their size, speed and their diet requirements.

## 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 families with kids are safe and distanced guided nature walks, each on a different theme. Families walk between stationed naturalists and each topic includes a parent engagement sheet to take home. A GMN recently asked if it was OK to distribute our fall flyers to their friends and Sunday school colleagues. Of course! The Nature Education Committee would appreciate everyone's help in advertising for these free and safe nature education opportunities.

**See the 2021 Fall Calendar flyer attached. Make copies, cut in half and hand them out, please!**

### **Discovery Programs for October-November 2021**

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto:trent.teinert@tpwd.texas.gov) or (830) 424-3407

### **Pollinator Garden at Park West**

**Date:** Wednesday mornings, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 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 filling feeders, clearing brush, 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](mailto:wheels5683@gmail.com)

## Forest Health

Work will return with cooler temperatures in the Fall.



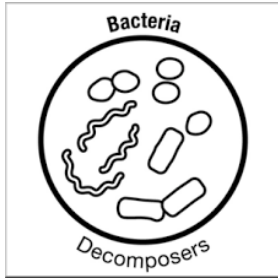
All information you need to participate in the Virtual Volunteer Fair is found on this link:

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/virtual-volunteer-fair-august-2021/>

You will earn hours for attending and the directions for how to log them on VMS is given on the link provided.

**Register soon as the dates are August 31 and September 1**

## ADVANCED TRAINING



### “Microbes for Healthy Soil”

**Date:** Monday, September 13, 2021

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:30 PM

**Location:** ZOOM; log-in information not yet available, go to website <https://npsot.org/wp/clearlake> for information

**Description:** Dr. Michael LaMontagne, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, College of Science and Engineering at University of Houston-Clear Lake will speak on the various microbes necessary for healthy soil and what you can do to encourage their growth.

### The Secret Life of Squirrels – TMNTuesday

**Date:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021

**Date:** 12:00 noon

**Location:** Webex

**Description:** Learn fascinating facts about three species of squirrels native to Texas. Kelsey Low, Adult Programs Manager at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, will describe the behaviors and physical characteristics of Texas squirrels.

**Registration Link:** <https://tpwdevents3000.webex.com/tpwdevents3000/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb8814a64e119e917ddd7e8db0161761e>

## The Cornell Lab Bird Academy

Cornell Lab of Ornithology offers many on-line birding courses for those wishing to improve their birding skills. Visit this site, <http://academy.allaboutbirds.org> , for listings of various courses.

### Fall Wildflowers and the Pollinators that Utilize Them

Guadalupe Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas

**Date:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** ZOOM meeting



**Description:** We all know about Spring wildflowers, but what about fall flowers? Join Texas Nature Trackers Biologist Craig Hensley for an informative presentation on the wildflowers of fall. He will also share images of a host of pollinators that depend upon them and review the upcoming statewide Pollinator Bioblitz [see below.] You will enjoy this timely topic and learn something new!

**Registration:** Register in advance for this meeting now!:

<https://npsot-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckceqpqT8rE9Hlp-Yy4qn6kGBXQTm6CALQ>

October 1-17, 2021



How to Participate-

- Pollinator BioBlitz participants observe and identify pollinators.
- All ages and abilities are encouraged to find pollinators and nectar-producing plants, take photos, and share with friends!
- Share observations by posting a photo or video to [Instagram](#), [iNaturalist](#), or the Facebook event pages.
- Pollinator observation challenges and informative links will be emailed to all [registered](#) participants regularly to add to the fun.

Did you know:

- The monarch population across the Eastern United States, Canada, and Mexico has declined by nearly 80% over the past 20 years.
- Besides monarchs, 30 native pollinator/flower-visiting species (bees, butterflies, and moths) are designated as [Species of Greatest Conservation Need](#).
- Pollinators (butterflies, bees and moths, bats, hummingbirds, wasps, flies, and beetles) sustain native plant species, human food crops, and even crops for livestock.

You can help! Learn about pollinators and pollinator habitat with these [resources](#). You can help by planting native, nectar-producing plants and pollinator gardens in communities, schools and backyards across Texas.

Information/Registration Link: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/bioblitz>

**The NEST Empowerment Center's Butterfly Garden**  
**Williamson Co. Native Plant Society Chapter Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, September 9, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 – 9:00 PM

**Description:** The Georgetown Project's Bebe Johnson will share information about their collaboration with NPSOT-Williamson County to create *The NEST Chrysalis Dreamscape*, located at The NEST Empowerment Center as part of its SPARKS patio. The collaboration began in 2019.

**Location:** Online

**Registration:** Register at:

[https://npsot-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvd-uoqzsoEtQv39dZMI\\_g5ZuVNRSRHMmM](https://npsot-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvd-uoqzsoEtQv39dZMI_g5ZuVNRSRHMmM)



Lindheimer Chapter  
Texas Master Naturalist Program



### Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm

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



What: "The Great Monarch Migration"

Where: Online via WEBEX

Members: Login to our Members Area for the Link (you'll need the chapter password)  
Non-members: Email Lindheimer@DNCcontact1@gmail.com



Join Texas Nature Trackers  
Biologist Craig Hensley to learn  
about the amazing journey that  
monarch butterflies undertake to  
reach overwintering locations!



Photo by LNTC member Erin Thom

## **Texas Stream Team Training**

### **San Marcos - Standard Core Water Quality Citizen Scientist Training**

**Date:** Sunday, September 12, 2021

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Description:** Texas Stream Team Standard Core training with the San Marcos River Rangers.

This training is open to the public, however, spots are limited. Location will be either a City of San Marcos public park or River Foundation property within the city of San Marcos.

**Contact:** Rachel Sanborn (San Marcos River Rangers volunteer citizen scientist coordinator) at [rivrangers@sanmarcosriver.org](mailto:rivrangers@sanmarcosriver.org) to find out more information or reserve a spot.



## **Be the Change -**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 21, 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.

September 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> through Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 Link: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2021-annual-meeting/>



**Native Landscaping Certification Classes**  
**Comal County NPSOT sponsored**



**Date:** Saturday, October 18, 2021

**Time:** 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

**Location:** on-line ZOOM

**Description:** Learn about the benefits of native plants, desirable plants for your area and design considerations for your landscape. NLCP is a state-wide program, but classes focus on the characteristics and plants in the region in which they are taught. This class is specific to the Comal County region.

**Registration Link:**

<https://nativeplantsocietyoftexas.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/nativeplantsocietyoftexas/event.jsp?event=594&>

**Introduction to Native Plants**  
**Mitchell Lake Audubon Center**

**Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00 PM

**Location:** ZOOM

**Description:** There are few better ways to attract birds to your backyard than by incorporating native plants in your landscape. Join Corina Solis of Mitchell Lake Audubon Center for an introduction to high value native plants in San Antonio. During this beginner level class, we will discuss the benefits of native plants and their benefits for both birds and people! You will come away from this presentation with practical suggestions for plants to incorporate into your landscape in San Antonio, as well as ideas for additional garden features to help create an inviting space for birds.

**Registration:** Free but registration required.

<https://mitchelllake.audubon.org/events/intro-native-plants>

## Candelilla or the Wax Plant

by Clara Mae Marcotte

When my dad bought Terlingua in 1976, two burros made trips back and forth across the border with loads of candelilla (probably illegally). They were quite friendly (he named them Senor Curly and Conejo); both animals wandered around outside the store before finally going home. Then when Daddy moved to Alpine in 1984, I was taken on a circuitous route down several Alpine alleys to see where the crude wax was cooled in a shed with a concrete floor.



Candelilla or *Euphorbia antisyphilitica* is an evergreen perennial growing up to 3 feet tall. According to Matt Warnock Turner in his Remarkable Plants of Texas the stems of the plant are covered with a thick, flaky coat of wax which helps the plant conserve water. This wax is one of the highest quality of waxes known, and Wildflower.org lists many uses including candles, soap, ointments, sealing wax, phonograph records, insulation material, shoe and floor polish, waterproofing, and lubricants. Many of us have chewed Trident gum which has candelilla as an ingredient.

This is a low water use plant growing in the Trans Pecos region and south into Mexico. It likes high elevation, sun, dry limestone and caliche type soil, and is both cold and heat tolerant. It is toxic although was used in treating venereal disease. The Kickapoo Indians drank the tea and applied it externally to syphilitic sores (and, Turner adds, this was as late as the 1970s). Wildflower.org says that toxic levels of the plant vary with the season and the stage of growth. Also adding to the toxicity, the plant can absorb herbicides, pesticides and pollutants from the water, air and soil.

Obtaining the wax involves pulling wild plants up by the roots, boiling them in water and sulfuric acid until the wax floats to the surface, and then skimming the wax off and allowing it to solidify. This practice, of course, keeps the candelilla population low. Cultivation encourages fast growth but little or no wax according to Turner because the plants produce the greatest amounts of wax when growing slowly under the stress of drought.

If you are further interested, there is a research institute with lists of scientific papers at [Candililla.org](http://Candililla.org).



## The Rough Green Snake by Tom Hardaway

In the serpent world, they are the masters of camouflage. If you have a shrubby, viney area in your yard, you probably have some of these snakes around your house and don't even know it because they blend in so well with their background that you don't see them.

I am speaking, of course, about the rough green snake, *Opheodrys aestivus*. They are a solid light green in color with a pale yellow to white belly. A rather slender arboreal snake, they are perfectly at home in bushes and shrubs where they feed on crickets, grasshoppers, caterpillars and spiders. They average 22 to 32 inches in length with the record being one 45 inches long. They are egg layers and are non-venomous.

So just how common are they? Well, probably more common than we think. Since they blend in so well with their surroundings, and don't move much at all, you must be actively looking for them to find them, something most of us do not do. But every now and then, one will be out of its element, so to speak, and then the bright green color makes them obvious to an observer. And this is where iNaturalist comes in handy. If you see one, take a picture of it with your cell phone and post it to the iNaturalist app under the Herps of Texas project. This will build up the database of sightings and help in determining just how common they are in this area.

One interesting fact about green snakes. The basic green color of the snake is the result of a blending of yellow and blue chromatophores. When dead, the yellow chromatophores decompose fairly rapidly, but the blue chromatophores do not, which results in a blue snake! So, if you find a dead blue snake, it's probably a green snake.



# TOADS

by David Benbow

For some reason, this spring we have had an explosion of the toad population (or toad frogs, as we used to call them when I was a kid.) I have never seen a profusion of toads like we are seeing this year. And, it's not just here in Eastern DeWitt County. A friend of mine about twenty miles south of here said they are seeing the same phenomenon.

A lot of things are different this year after the Big Freeze, which I understand has been given a name, "Winter Storm Uri." I wonder if the freeze had anything to do with the proliferation of toads. I'm not complaining about them. They are welcome for several reasons.

## SO, WHAT ARE TOADS?

This seems like a simple question. Everybody thinks they know what toads are. They give you warts if you touch them. No, wait, that's what we kids were told. That's not really true, experts say.

Are they frogs? Yes and no. If you "follow the science," technically toads are frogs.

But beyond that, I was very surprised at the disparity of information I found when researching this subject. For example, I started out trying to determine the species of the toads in my yard. My sources, naturally, were all articles on the internet. From pictures, descriptions and identifying marks, I have decided that my local toads are *Bufo nebulifer*, also known as Coastal Plain Toads. But, it wasn't this way two years ago. In fact, over the last twenty years, there have been several name changes, and recognition of species variation not known even two years ago. So, even now, the science does not appear to be completely settled.



According to the "Frog Lady," an authoritative-sounding website, there are at least six species of toad in Texas. Our toad, *B. nebulifer*, is found in Central Texas and along the Gulf Coast.

## SOME INTERESTING STUFF ABOUT THEM

Our local toad is identified primarily by the cream-colored stripe down the middle of the back and some wider stripes on the side. Their overall color is a grey-brown mottled, warty texture.

Toads are solitary except during mating season. They hibernate, out of sight, during winter, and locate their mates in the spring by a loud call. Apparently, their call varies to the extent that they can use it to recognize close kin, and avoid mating with them. Mating occurs in puddles, ponds, or any shallow water. Females lay up to 5000 eggs (and I believe every single one of them hatched out in our yard this spring.)

They eat most any arthropod that they can fit in their mouth. I watch them at night, under the lights. They walk, in a way, toward prospective prey and then flick out a tongue to capture it. They hop when in a hurry or they feel threatened.

Their primary natural defense is a toxin (bufagin) which they exude through the skin. Even though some articles suggest this is dangerous to pets, I've never seen any lasting problems from brief pet contact. Our dogs, after picking them up, would foam at the mouth like they had rabies until they dropped them unharmed (both dog and frog.)

They operate at night, (nocturnal), and sleep during the day, usually in some burrow, hole, or crevice where they stay out of the killing sun.

I read that they shed their skin periodically and often eat the shed skin.

## ARE THEY GOOD OR BAD?

Their down-side, at least this summer, is that they are so numerous that mowing the yard is almost impossible. Every movement of the mower causes several of them to hop, panic-stricken, out of the way. So, I either wait on them to hop out of the way, or pick them up and move them to a safe space. They also get into the pet's water dishes every night, and foul their drinking water.

My verdict is that they are good to have around, primarily because their diet includes a lot of bad things, including scorpions, which, if so, makes them a very valuable creature at our house.

## Training Class News

The 2021 Training Class is off to a good start. We have enjoyed several wonderful presenters and look forward to those to come. The one disappointment was having to cancel our trip to Cibolo Nature Center because of the rise in COVID cases. Several of the students are members of the “busy bee club” having already jumped in and volunteered at Warbler Woods. Sandi Wheeler has generously agreed to be the contact person and assist students with volunteer opportunities at Warbler Woods.

Thanks to Chapter members John Barrington, Michelle Darnell, Laura Griffith, Gayle Temple and Jim Dyess for volunteering to serve as class monitors. It's always helpful to have extra hands to keep things running smoothly.

**Seth Faught**, a member of the class of 2019, has been transferred with the military to Fresno, CA. Seth was a very active volunteer at Warbler Woods and is an iNaturalist trainer. He says they miss Texas and can't wait to return. His duty in California is managing the property for the Military Police command.

Always the learner, he is also working to complete his Master's degree!

Seth will remain a member of Guadalupe Chapter and continue to “volunteer from afar” doing activities he can complete from home. We wish him Good Luck and can't wait until he is back home in Texas



# 2021 Certifications

## Class of 2014

Marilyn Anderson  
Jennifer Ehlers  
Craig Wagner

## Class of 2015

Tom Hardaway  
Janet Magee  
Nick Franzen

## Class of 2016

Craig Sagebiel  
Pam Sagebiel

## Class of 2017

Mark de Kiewiet

## Class of 2019

Mary Styblo  
Bobby Cowley

## Class of 2020

Laura Griffith

## Double Certifications

### Class of 2020

John Barrington  
Adrienne Bebow

## 250 Hours of Service

Bruce Bebow  
Elaine Cowley  
David Tripp

## 500 Hours of Service

Elizabeth Romero

President Mark de Kiewiet presents members with Service pins at the August Chapter meeting.



Laura Griffith



John Barrington



David Tripp



Mark de Kiewiet



Craig and Pam Sagebiel

## 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!!**

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](https://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](mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net). by Friday, September 24 for the October 2021 issue.

<u>Officers:</u>	
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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

