

# Guadalupe Chapter Texas Master Naturalist



November 2021

Vol. 8, Issue 11

<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, November 22, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 PM – Program

8:00 PM – Business Meeting

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

**Description:** **Sleuthing Earth's History** will be presented by Guadalupe Master Naturalist and retired geologist Jim Dyess. We will be looking at Earth as it has changed over the years using geologic maps, Wikipedia, and paleogeographic maps overlain on the constantly moving tectonic plates. With little effort, you can learn about the underpinnings and story of most any place of interest. [See Flier attached in email.](#)

## **Board Meeting**

**Date:** Monday, November 15, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Webex

**Description:** All officers and chairmen of the many committees will meet to plan future events and discuss Chapter business. Please put on your calendar so you can attend and report on your committee.



## **VOLUNTEER OPPERTUNITIES**

### **Discover Early Texans**

**Date:** Monday afternoon, November 8

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

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

**Leader:**

**Assistants:** **Please arrive at 2:30**

**Date:** Saturday morning, November 13

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

**Location:** Crescent Bend Nature Park, [12805 Schaefer Rd.](#), Schertz

**Leader:**

**Assistants:** **Please arrive at 8:30**

**Description:** Participants will experience a typical day in the life of a Tonkawa child with food gathering, food preparation, tool-making and creating ceremonial objects.

# Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust Presents



*A TEXAS Arbor Day celebration*

**Date: November 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-3:00pm**

*(Registered time slots available for social distancing. Arrival times are flexible)*

**Location: Plum Creek Wetland Preserve, Lockhart, TX**

**3105 N U.S. Hwy 183, Lockhart, TX 78644**

Join us for our second-annual volunteer reforestation of the Plum Creek Wetland Preserve. The 2020 event will be open to general community volunteers, partners and sponsors. Our long-term goal is to plant thousands of trees on 25 acres, restoring the habitat to its natural condition.

#### The event will include:

- Brief tour of the preserve with an introduction to our history and goals for the future
- Training for proper tree planting
- Advanced training workshops
- Planting 400 tree seedlings native to the Blackland Prairie
- Partnering organization information booths
- Fun for the whole family

\*\* Wear durable boots, pants and hat, bring water bottle, facemask, sunscreen & bug spray

\*\* Breakfast tacos and lunch, boots, gloves, water, hand sanitizer, limited sunscreen and bug spray will be provided

Registration @ <https://gbrtx.org/plum-creek-wetlands-1>

Questions can be sent to:

Tyler Sanderson, Executive Director

[tsanderson@gbrtx.org](mailto:tsanderson@gbrtx.org) 830.305.6873



Register at: <https://gbrtx.org/plum-creek-wetlands-1>

## Chinaberry Pull

**Date:** Thursday, November 4

**Time:** 8:30 – 11:00 AM

**Location:** Park West, 623 N. Vaughn St., Seguin

**Description:** Come join the Forest Health project. Our first day will be a **Chinaberry Pull**, so we need all hands to come out and pull up the 1,000 (or so) foot-high Chinaberry sprouts that came up this summer. Come out get a taste of our weekly work!



Wear closed-toe shoes, long sleeves and pants, a hat and bring gloves and water. Meet in the Park West Parking lot and join the forest crew!

## 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, November 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021

**Time:** 8:30 AM

**Location:** Park West, 623 N. Vaughn, Seguin

**Description:** Help with general care and maintenance of the garden and the planting new plants as needed. 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)

## Seguin Outdoor Learning Center

Dates and times vary depending on the schedule of schools. Contact Michelle Darnell to sign up to help with the school groups coming to learn about various nature topics.

[mdarnelltex@gmail.com](mailto:mdarnelltex@gmail.com)      210-601-8957

## ADVANCED TRAINING

### Rain Gardens for Wildlife and Water Quality Boerne Chapter Native Plant Society

**Date:** Tuesday, November 2

**Time:** 6:30 sign-in

**Location:** via ZOOM

**Description:** Learn how to make the most of the rain to improve your landscape for wildlife and water quality. Rain gardens are shallow depressions that help temporarily capture rainwater runoff from hard surfaces like rooftops and allow the water to be filtered and cleaned through plants and soils. When plants are selected properly, these gardens can help pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Learn the basics of site analysis, installation and some of the best local native plants to make your rain garden attractive as well as wildlife friendly.

### Guadalupe Chapter Native Plant Society Propagating Native Plants, Part 2



**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom [contact me for link if needed]

**Description:** Chapter President Bob Tewles will continue with his presentation on propagation of native plants. The November program is titled "Overwintering Native Plant Seedlings." Bob is a former Texas Master Gardener Propagation Specialist and a 10-year member of NPSOT.

### Lindheimer Chapter Texas Master Naturalists

**Date:** Thursday, November 18

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** Webex - If you need the chapter password, email [LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com](mailto:LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com)

**Description:** Speaker to be announced. Go to website for information.

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7wocO2urT8uHt3leu\\_\\_04TidJR9s4F6ym6Y](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7wocO2urT8uHt3leu__04TidJR9s4F6ym6Y)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## Restoring Habitat in Texas to Protect Our Native Pollinators

### Williamson County Native Plant Society

**Date:** Thursday, November 11

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** ZOOM To attend via **Zoom instead of in person**, you must register at <https://npsot-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkd-quqzwrGdVh6eFRhDKcAqU-PTtJX6yy>

**Description:** Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are declining worldwide, due in large part to the loss of their native habitat. In his presentation, Dr. Griffin will talk about his research into how ecological restoration can be used to protect these important pollinators in Texas, and discuss ways that you can encourage diverse communities of beneficial insects on your own land. Dr. Sean Griffin is a restoration ecologist broadly interested in wild bee conservation, fire ecology, and the recovery of degraded grasslands.

**Website:** <https://npsot.org/wp/wilco/>

## Texas Stream Team Training

### Standard Core Water Quality Citizen Scientist

**Date:** Sunday, November 21

**Time:** 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Location:** San Marcos

**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.

**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. To limit the duration of the in-person training, this training will require a prerequisite online module, which must be completed before the day of the training. The prerequisite module should take no more than 40-mins to complete.

**Contact:** Please contact **Adam Berglund** (San Marcos River Rangers volunteer citizen scientist coordinator) at [riverrangers@sanmarcosriver.org](mailto:riverrangers@sanmarcosriver.org) to find out more information or reserve a spot

## Training Class News

It's hard to believe the Training Class of 2021 is about over. Saturday they hiked the Canyon Lake Gorge with Cindi Thomas-Jimenez and Jim Dyess leading. The Gorge is always an amazing field trip and they received a wonderful introduction from Dr. Carter Keairns during Tuesday's class on geology.

One more regular class day then they will go to Neasloney Wildlife Area on the 13<sup>th</sup> and have their last class/field trip to the Outdoor Learning Center on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Course completion certificates will be presented to those who have completed all requirements. We will celebrate with lunch and the opportunity to relax.



## MUD DAUBERS OR DIRT DAUBERS by David Benbow



First of all, they are wasps. They are solitary. They build mud nests under the eaves of houses, barns or anywhere else out of the weather. One of the chief identifying characteristics of mud wasps is their elongated, thin, rod-like “waist” that connects abdomen to thorax. Their “un-wasp-like” behavior also sets them apart. They are not bashful. They don’t worry much about the presence of humans. They go about their business in a single-minded, but unaggressive way. If you get in their way, they just fly around you, seemingly unafraid. They only get excited if you pull off your cap and try to swat them out of the sky. Even then, they don’t attack you; they just leave until you go away. I have never been stung by one, and I don’t know of anyone that has.

### VARIETIES

I read somewhere that there are about 30 varieties in the U.S. Most of these varieties can be found around my house in DeWitt County looking for a safe space under the hood of my car.

The most common varieties are (1) a solid black wasp (not *Sphex pensylvanicus* couldn’t find scientific name) (2) a yellow and black (*Sceliphron caementarion*), (3) an iridescent bluish one (*Chalybion californicum*) (4) a red dirt dauber that is similar to a red paper wasp (they are not the same and I couldn’t find a scientific name for the red mud wasp, either.)

### ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS

They are active from May to September, especially during wet periods. They search for wet dirt, which they ball up and carry to their nest’s construction site. I don’t know this for certain, but I suspect they may deposit a small amount of cementing substance into the mud so that it all holds together. A dry, hardened nest requires considerable force to smash it apart. You always know when and where they are building by the unmistakable grinding hum noise they emit as they work.

They build several chambers in their mud villa, in each of which they lay a single egg. Along with the egg, they deposit a prepared meal consisting of a couple dozen small spiders, alive but paralyzed from the wasp’s sting. The egg hatches, forms a larva and it devours the still moist, but immobile arachnids.

The larva eventually grows to maturity and emerges from the mud nest as a fully grown wasp.

The entire process takes about a year, from wasp to egg to larva to new wasp.

### PROS AND CONS

Their primary benefit, if you can call it a benefit, is the elimination of small spiders. I’ve broken open a few nests, to discover primarily small, whitish-grayish limp, moist spiders. You know, the kind that builds those entangling webs that you run into during your early morning walk.

Some species are decent pollinators, their primary sustenance being the pollen of certain flowers which they eat during their short life of a month or so.

The blue metallic wasp, previously mentioned, preys upon Black Widow spiders. That is certainly a benefit, in my opinion. I have these blue wasps around my house, but I’ve never followed one to its nest so that I could examine its cache. I also read that these Black Widow catchers do not build new nests, but lay their eggs in old nests of other mud wasp species.

For me, they’d have to catch a lot of spiders to make up for all the mud nests that I seem to be constantly knocking down (and scrubbing the underlying surface.)

### DEARTH OF ON-LINE INFORMATION

I was surprised at how little information detail there is on-line. Lots of pictures, but not much written information. Some of the most informative web-sites were pest control companies.



# A Bug's World



It was another enjoyable learning experience for children and adults as our Chapter members and Members-in-Training shared our Discover module on insects.



Pam Wolfer shares information with two children



Gayle Temple and Laura Griffith playing the Food Pyramid with a group of children.



Thanks to these members who volunteered at Crescent Bend. Left to right: Gayle Temple, Justice Brown, Laura Griffith, Kim Lewis, Ken Harvey, Debra Dedrick, Nancy Masterson, Carolyn Wolfer and Vivian Maguire.

-photo by Alejandro Montoya

**NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Send announcements and news items for distribution in the newsletter to Marilyn Anderson, [MarilynA@access4less.net](mailto:MarilynA@access4less.net). by Friday, November 26 for the December 2021 issue.



Officers:

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

Committee Chairmen:

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 A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife

