

Guadalupe Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

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



January 2022

Vol. 9, Issue 1

***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, January 24, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM Program

8:00 PM Chapter Meeting

Location: AgriLife Building, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin or on Webex

Description: Dr. Matt Wagner served many years in the wildlife division of Texas Parks and Wildlife. He is now working as a range and wildlife consultant to private ranches in Central Texas. Dr. Wagner is currently working with the Weston Ranch, located between New Braunfels and Schertz. This ranch manages their extensive properties for plant and wildlife conservation. Also, Dr. Alan Lievens and Dr. Mark Gustafson, botany and ecology professors at Texas Lutheran University, have been documenting the plant life on the ranch for many years. Dr. Wagner will present an opportunity for Guadalupe Master Naturalists to participate in a year-long EcoChallenge, similar to a bioblitz, at Weston Ranch.



Come hear Dr. Wagner review the ranch and the EcoChallenge.

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Monday, January 17, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Webex

Description: All Chapter officers and committee chairs are encouraged to attend.



VOLUNTEER OPPERTUNITIES



Forest Health

Date: Thursday, January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022

Time: 8:30 – 11:00 AM

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

Come on out and 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 or (830) 424-3407

Pollinator Garden at Park West

Date:

Time:

Location: Park West, 623 N. Vaughn, Seguin

Description: This project is on "Winter Vacation!" Watch for the notice in the Spring when the committee will begin working in the garden.

Leaders: Clara Mae Marcotte, Liz Romero



Walk With a Naturalist

Walk With a Naturalist (WWaN) will return this spring in Seguin, with Jim Dyess as the new organizer for a weekly adult nature education program at Park West. But what about Schertz? Since Nature Ed needs someone to step up and organize casual, 1-hour walks at Crescent Bend Nature Park, here's what Walk With a Naturalist entails.



The purpose is to invite adults to learn about Guadalupe Master Naturalists and how to become one. In 2018-19, we chose Tuesday mornings in the spring months to offer a free 1-hour walk. A different naturalist each week offered their observations of the park as they led the walk. Whether you point out wildflowers, trees, birds, plants, or soils, you cover the basics and encourage people to become a naturalist, too.

A Schertz WWaN organizer could choose a convenient time to hold the walks, perhaps after work or on a Sunday afternoon, in whatever spring months they choose. The Schertz Parks and Recreation Dept. and our Communication Committee would promote them. There's a simple 1-page how-to for the weekly leaders.

Interested? Please email Nancy Masterson (nsethermasterson@gmail.com) by Dec. 7 for the leader instruction sheet.

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

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

210-601-8957

Guadalupe Master Naturalists Discovery Series 2022 Calendar

Free 1-Hour Outdoor Nature Walks
for families with children K-4th Grade

Second Mondays at Seguin Public Library, 313 W. Nolte St.

Staggered Starts: 3:30-4:00 PM

*June & July Staggered Starts 9:30-10 AM

Sign up online with Seguin Public Library

Or call 830-401-2422

Second Saturdays at Schertz Crescent Bend Nature Park, 12805 Schaefer Rd

Staggered Starts: 9:30-10:00 AM

Pre-registration required with the Schertz Parks Dept.

[www.Schertz.com/Parks/Nature Education](http://www.Schertz.com/Parks/Nature%20Education)

or call 210-619-1850

*All attendees will stay in household groups, distanced from other families.
Sign-in slips are single-use. Programs are trail walks with no shared touching.*

Feb 12 & 14	Discover Nature Journaling: Real naturalists record and remember
March 12 & 14	Discover What's Flying: Learn clues for looking at birds
April 9 & 11	Discover A Bug's World: The world needs bugs
May 14 & 16	Discover What's Buzzing & Blooming: Functions of flowers, bees and butterflies
June 11 & 13*	Discover The Forest: Every living thing has a role in the forest.
July 9 & 11*	Discover Clues and Traces: Find what animals leave behind
Sept. 10 & 12	Discover Horns and Thorns: Staying alive is tough
Oct. 8 & 10	Discover Dinosaur Tracks: Tracks tell tales
Nov. 12 & 14	Discover Early Texans: When kids knew how to live off the land

ADVANCED TRAINING

Effective Landscape Use of Native Plants Guadalupe Chapter Native Plant Society

Date: Tuesday, January 11

Time: 7:00 PM

Description: Deedy Wright will be presenting "Effective Landscape Use of Native Plants". Deedy will explain "Cues of Care" in landscaping and has promised us a "surprise" at the end. I can tell you that personally, Deedy's landscape presentations are always among the most practical and enlightening.

Location: ZOOM

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87834876610?pwd=TERkbE1HVE51eGFYMHVVVmN3L0hGdz09>

The link starts at 6:30 for technical reasons. The meeting will start at 7PM, so **please sign in about 6:50 on the 11th.**



Attracting Insects to Your Garden
Williamson County Native Plant Society



Date: Thursday, January 13

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: ZOOM and in person. **If you attend via Zoom**, register at https://npsot-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ldO6srzluHNfUG_FDoN5kvwe0taodJ3XC

Description: The presentation will cover simple changes you can make or add to your landscape to attract insects such as predators, parasitoids, and pollinators. Wizzie Brown has been with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for 20 years. Before her time with AgriLife, she worked in structural pest control.



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

Texas Stream Team Training
Standard Core Water Quality Citizen Scientist



Date: No dates on January calendar; go to website <https://teamup.com/ksos37y3n9acgt5pk5> to see if training is planned for January

Time:

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:rivrangers@sanmarcosriver.org) to find out more information or reserve a spot

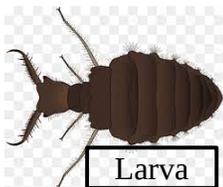
DOODLEBUGS AKA ANT LIONS

by David Benbow

While enjoying a warm summer December day yesterday I accidentally disturbed a fire ant bed. For some reason the ants had built right next door to a colony of ant lions. The fire ants, as usual, went berserk and accidentally stumbled into several of the doodlebug's conical pits. A mighty battle ensued! Sand flicking, ants trying to get out, with at least a dozen ants in one pit. I began to worry that the overwhelming number of ants would kill the ant lion, but I think he survived. How many ants perished, I do not know.

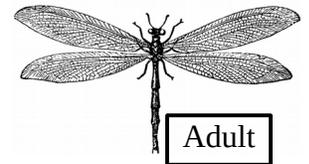
My place is situated in the sand and gravel hills of DeWitt County, so we have a lot of Doodlebugs, as we used to call them. For obvious reasons, they like loose blow-type sand to make their lairs.

WHAT ARE THEY?



Larva

Ant lions (*Myrmeleon* sp.) are actually larvae. The adult, a lace-wing ant lion, resembles a damselfly, but is rarely observed because it only has a 3 week lifespan and does its business in the night-time. The larvae, on the other hand, live 2 to 3 years after hatching from their eggs, slowly developing full size, then weaving a cocoon, and emerging briefly as an adult. The adults then



Adult

mate, lay their eggs, and the whole thing starts over again.

The larvae live in the loose sand, at the bottom of a conical shaped pit, about an inch wide at the top. They dig this pit by flipping sand out until they achieve their inverted volcano. There they lie in wait of some small insect, usually an ant, to fall into their trap. When the ant falls in, the ant lion begins flipping more sand to keep the ant from crawling out. When the ant finally falls, exhausted, to the bottom, the ant lion seizes the ant with its powerful mandibles, injects a poison to immobilize it and makes a meal out of it. When the meal is over, it flips the dry carcass out of the nest.

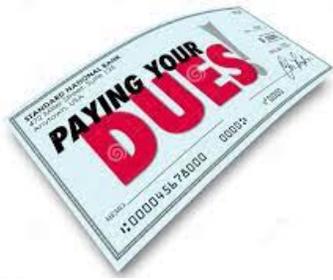
ARE THEY DANGEROUS?

If all you did was read their description about poison, mandibles, etc. you would think this insect was the very devil, itself. However, in my experience, nothing could be further from the truth. When I was a kid, I used to dig them out of their little pits, and they would scurry around in my palm, looking for an exit route. I had no idea that they had a poisonous bite. My guess is that, given the specialized shape of the mandibles, which are designed to grasp the midsection of a small insect, the antlion couldn't bit your finger even if it wanted to.

THEY ARE BENEFICIAL AND CUTE, TOO!

These are actually great little creatures to have around the outside of your house. While they certainly won't rid your place of pesky ants, they don't hurt anything either. They can provide hours of entertainment to small children who have an interest in nature. You can make your own antlion colony, too. A couple of shovels of loose sand in a box, capture two or three of the little fellows, dump them in, and pretty soon, they will dig out their pits.

Just make sure that you feed them while you have them trapped. Drop in an ant or two and they will take care of the rest.



It's that time again for us to pay our membership dues. The \$25.00 fee should be paid no later than March 31, 2022. Members of the Fall Training Class of 2021 are exempt from dues until becoming a certified Master Naturalist.

Please mail your check to Craig Sagebiel, Treasurer
4467 Luther Road
Seguin, TX 78155

Committee Positions

It takes a team to accomplish all our Chapter goals and projects. Please review the list of committees below and choose one you would like to be a part of. Chairmen are in place, but your help is needed as a committee member.



Guadalupe Master Naturalists – Committees for 2022

1. **Monthly Program** – Find speakers of interest to the public as well as the Master Naturalists for the monthly chapter meeting. May arrange occasional field trips.
2. **Training Course** – Develop the curriculum, find lecturers and venues, create class schedule, host the class sessions. Current chair is on the next class committee.
3. **Nature Education** – Plan and carry out educational and outreach activities that fall under Training and Educating Others (TR) and Public Outreach (PO). Create and maintain original curriculum, kits, and exhibits. Educate others using curriculum developed by other entities. Recruit and train members to carry out these activities.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

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The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife

