



***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, February 28, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM Program

8:00 PM Chapter Meeting

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

Description: One year ago most of us were pulling out winter clothes that we hadn't worn since the last time we went skiing or when we went to grandma's house in Minnesota, Iowa, New York or one of those frigid states. And we were wearing them in the house because we only had intermittent power for three days that seemed like forever. We all came through the cold weather with no problems, but what about the bird, mammals, pollinators, and plants that didn't have ski clothes to put on or occasional warmth from a furnace. Our South Texas plants and creatures can survive a night or two or three of freezing weather, but most are not adapted to days of temperatures in the teens and low 20's. How did they fare? One of our GMN sponsors **Trent Teinert**, Natural Resource Specialist at Neasloney Wildlife Management Area, will talk to us about changes biologists saw in the days right after the freeze as well as long term effects that they are still observing and what ramifications they think we will continue to see.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FOREST HEALTH

Date: Thursday, February 3, 10, 17, 24, 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!

Contacts: John Barrington - freedom516@yahoo.com

Nancy Masterson – nsethermasterson@gmail.com



NATURE EDUCATION

Discover Nature Journaling

Date: Saturday, February 12, 2022

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

Location: Crescent Bend Nature Park, Schertz

Leader: **NEED A LEADER**

Volunteers: Mark de Kiewiet, Laura Griffith

Please arrive at 8:30 A.M.

Contact: Rebeca Leininger rsleininger@gmail.com

Date: Monday, February 14, 2022

Time: staggered start times 3:30 – 4:00 PM

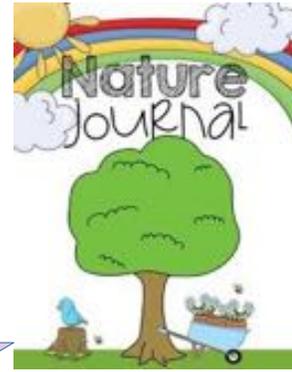
Location: Seguin Public Library, 313 W. Nolte

Leader: **NEED A LEADER**

Volunteers: Debbie Balderas, Nancy Masterson, Liz Romero, Kate Schnautz

Please arrive at 2:30 P.M.

Contact: Jennifer Ehlers ehlers@gvec.net



Description: Observation is a basic skill of science. Nature journaling provides the opportunity for children to record their observations, their thoughts, and their feelings about what they see in nature. Journaling nurtures creativity and builds critical thinking and scientific skills.



Please contact Jennifer or Rebeca to assist with the February Discover programs.

Contact information above.

It is an exciting year for the Nature Education Committee

To begin with, there are two new co-chairs, Rebeca Leininger rsleininger@gmail.com [210-620-9998] for the Schertz area and Jennifer Ehlers ehlers@gvec.net [830-305-1352] for the Seguin area. There are many opportunities to you to get involved and volunteer this spring:

The **Discover Series** is happening again at both Crescent Bend on Saturday mornings and at the Seguin Public Library on Monday afternoons. Following is the schedule for this spring. The first date is Saturday at Crescent Bend and the second is the Seguin event. The time commitment for the Saturday events are from about 8:30 to noon and Monday afternoons are from about 2:30 to 5:00. **We need volunteers to handle the various stations as well as a leader for each event.**

Please let us know your interest in any or all of these events.

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 9 & 14 - Discover What's Buzzing & Blooming: Functions of flowers, bees and butterflies

We are bringing back **Walk with a Naturalist**. Jim Dyess will be heading this up for Park West. Watch for more details about times and plans. Carolyn Wolfer, one of our newest members, has volunteered to start the program at Crescent Bend. More details about this will be coming soon.

Michele Darnell has a full schedule of planned visits by elementary school students at the **Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center**. The Center is in a transition period, so the only programming happening is what Michele is doing. She has groups coming from February through April. The great thing for us is that she is needing volunteers to serve as "Assistants," not as leaders. This means that you do not need to be trained to present the topic; you can simply assist the person doing the presentation. Yet you still get to interact with students eager to learn and appreciate the value of nature in their lives. The time commitment is from 8:00 a.m. to about 12:30 p.m. The events all happen during the week since the schools are bringing their students to the Center for this experience. Reach out to Michelle (eesc.solc@gmail.com) for details.

We are reaching out to AgrilLife to see if they will need our assistance with any **Agri-life Water Fairs or programming at the "Big Red Barn"** this spring. Once we know, we will let everyone know.

We are hoping to participate in Seguin's **Earth Day** celebration in late April, if one will be happening. Once we know more about this great publicity event for Texas Master Naturalist's, we will let you know that also.

We look forward to hearing which exciting Nature Education opportunities you want to be involved with.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

At our January monthly meeting, Dr. Matt Wagner invited the Guadalupe Master Naturalists to participate in a survey of the animal populations on the **Weston Ranch** using iNaturalist as a documenting tool. For those of you who were at the meeting, or attended virtually, you may recall that they have plans to look at the biological fauna on four separate 200 acre tracts on the ranch over several months. TLU has already spent time documenting the plant communities. It is our understanding that they now wish to concentrate more on the animal populations.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please email Tom Hardaway at tehardaway@yahoo.com to let him know. He will be the contact person initially. Dr. Wagner had talked about having a training session soon on how to conduct the survey and that the survey(s) would start April 9.

M. O. Neasloney Wildlife Management Area

Dates/Times: vary with volunteer schedule

Location: 20700 SH 80 North, Gonzales, TX 78629 [between Belmont and Luling]

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.

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



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: Sandi Wheeler at wheels5683@gmail.com



Great Backyard Bird Count

Dates: February 18 – 21, 2022

For more information:

<https://www.birdcount.org/participate/>



ADVANCED TRAINING

From Landscape to Wildscape: Gardening for Wildlife at Home **Boerne Chapter, Native Plant Society**

Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Time: 6:30 ZOOM sign-in
7:00 Program

Location: ZOOM - Please register in advance for this meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tJwocO2urT8uHt3leu__04TidJR9s4F6ym6Y

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

Description: Lauren Simpson is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Houston Law Center. When she is not teaching Lawyering Skills and Strategies, she is transforming her Houston home gardens into a Certified Wildlife Habitat (National Wildlife Federation), a Monarch Waystation (Monarch Watch, Waystation No. 10925), and a Certified Butterfly Garden (North American Butterfly Association). She spends her “free time” promoting pollinator conservation and wildscaping through state and local presentations, events, articles and interviews. Ms. Simpson is an active member of the Native Plant Society of Texas (Houston Chapter), the North American Butterfly Association (Butterfly Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas Chapter), and her neighborhood gardening group.

Butterflies of Bexar County
San Antonio Audubon Society



Date: Thursday, February 3, 2022

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Join the Zoom Meeting at 6:30 here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83163635460?pwd=V0lBNml2VEZzbk0vZHhocm1sdFJ4QT09#success>

Meeting ID: 831 6363 5460 Passcode: 302381

Description: Much like birding, butterfly watching affords practitioners the opportunity to connect to the natural world and learn about the interconnectedness of life on earth. In addition, many of the skills and techniques developed for bird identification can be successfully applied to the study of butterflies. In this presentation, Zachary Tonzetich will discuss some of the basics about how to get started in butterfly watching, describe some identification tips, and recount his personal experiences finding butterflies in Bexar County over the last five years. Central Texas boasts an impressive number of butterfly species encompassing six out of the seven families that make up the superfamily Papilionoidea (Butterflies). This presentation will focus on the more common species found in our area but will also touch on some examples of rarer species that occasionally show up in Bexar County. Resources for learning and identifying butterflies will also be highlighted.

"Proper planting and soil amendment procedures for Native Texas plants"

Guadalupe Co. Chapter, Native Plant Society

Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: ZOOM Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85250848752?pwd=eXZGaERUbFd3dUllNXZKMG96SmxGQT09>

Please connect between 6:50 – 6:55; meeting starts at 7:00

Description: Emily Hunter from Green Jay Gardens will speak.



Still Learning to Propagate Native Plants
Williamson County Native Plant Society

Date: Thursday, February 10, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: **If you attend via Zoom,** register at:

https://npsot-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0uf-2hpjstEtaqHa3S94BQ99xr_FB8Zhlz

Description: Barbara Wright will share her expert knowledge about propagating native plants by germination and cuttings. Barbara owns and operates Wright's Nursery (open by appointment only) in Briggs, Texas, growing native and adapted plants as well as seasonal veggie starts.

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





Lindheimer Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Program



Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 5-6:45 pm

What: "Don't Mess with Texas Bees!"

Who: Charlie Agar, Beekeeper

Where: Online via WEBEX

Members: Login to our Members Area for the Link (you'll need the chapter password)
Non-members: Email Lindheimer.MNC@state.tx.us

Charlie Agar got his first hive of bees in 2015, but when he started doing nuisance hive removals the following year his beekeeping work blossomed into a sideline business that's spawned new friendships, travel, and lots of crazy experiences. Today he does bee removals, manages 150 colonies, and helps landowners all across Central Texas. His work with bees is the subject of the Austin PBS reality TV show *Charlie Bee Company*. Charlie lives in New Braunfels with wife Kaye, three dogs, and their backyard chickens.



<https://charliebee.com>



Charlie captures nuisance honey bees from walls and trees and takes them to a rural "bee-hub" for a little rehabilitation. He then leases bees for agricultural tax valuation on ranch properties all across the area. The byproduct of all this work is golden delicious Texas Hill Country honey Charlie likes to call "Liquid Sunshine."

WOW! Beginning January 8, 2022 on Austin PBS, KLRU-TV, *Charlie Bee Company* will be airing Saturdays at 4:30 PM, with encore presentations on Sundays at 2:00 PM. In the Spring of 2022, following its Austin debut, *Charlie Bee Company* will be airing nationwide on PBS through American Public Television.

Beginner Birding Series

Galveston Rosenberg Library

Date: on-going series – see dates below

Time: 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Location: Virtual -

Description:

Kristine Rivers is partnering with Galveston's Rosenberg Library once again to offer the free

Birding for Fun 8-week series of Beginner Birding

virtual classes. These classes have been approved for one hour of AT for each class (unless you have attended previously) and you can sign up for the entire series or just the classes that interest you.

Register here: <https://rosenberg-library.org/events/library-events/#adult-events> (You will need to register for each individual class at this link, or you can register for the entire series by emailing Ashley Welborn at awelborn@rosenberg-library.org.)

Classes will be held via Zoom. Please find descriptions for each of the classes below:



Monday, January 31: Using Your Birding Field Guide - When you're just starting out, using your field guide to try to identify a bird in the field can be difficult! We'll help you narrow down where to look in your field guide, and talk about different identification methods using size and shape, behavior and habitat clues. Then you'll have a chance to practice your identification skills, so be sure to have your favorite field guide handy!

Monday, February 7: Location, Location, Location! Understanding Habitat – Birds are an amazingly diverse group of animals with over 10,000 species worldwide, because they have adapted over time to survive in almost every type of habitat. We'll take a close look at the many different habitat types in our area, and the kinds of birds that each attracts.

Monday, February 14: Bird's Eye View on Behavior – Fascinated with bird behavior? So are we! Join us for this special presentation using our personal videos of a variety of birds in action to learn how you can use behavior to help with identification.

Monday, February 21: Spring Migration - Spring migration is an exciting time to go birding with all the beautiful migrants passing through our area. We'll talk about migration trends, and take a closer look at some of the species that you may see.

Monday, February 28: It's Time for a Makeover! Understanding Plumage Variation - In this interactive presentation, we'll discuss the reasons for plumage variations; how molting can affect identification; and color changes of bills, lores, legs, and feet. Bring your favorite field guide if you would like to practice your identification skills.

These popular classes fill up quickly, so please be sure to sign up soon if you're interested!

Point of contact: Kristine Rivers at 832-372-8236.



Texas Stream Team Training
Standard Core Water Quality Citizen Scientist

Date: Sunday, February 20, 2022

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

Recertifications

Congratulations

Class of 2015

Sharon Frels

Larry White

Pam Turner



Cinde Thomas-Jimenez



Bronze
250 Service Hours

Nick Franzen - Class of 2015
Sharon Frels - Class of 2015

**Yea, Class of 2015. Still carrying out the Mission
of the Texas Master Naturalists!**

IT'S SKUNK SEASON AGAIN!

by David Benbow

I always know when it's February, even without a calendar, because of all the dead skunks in the middle of the road. Why? It's their mating season.

In Central Texas, the Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) is our local species. There is another species, the "hog-nosed skunk", which I read is very rare, and I believe it, because I've never seen one in my life. Of course, having even one species of skunk is bad enough. Yes, I know they can be beneficial. But the memory of those small benefits dies a quick death when you are suddenly overwhelmed with the awareness of their presence.



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT SKUNKS

Most of us already think we are experts on skunks, but here's a little bit of information anyway. Skunks are black, with varying white stripes on their backs and upper sides. A litter of five young skunks can each vary in their stripe pattern. Adults rarely weigh more than 10 pounds. Females and males are indistinguishable by their coloration and size (at a distance, anyway, which is the best perspective from which to view a skunk.)

They usually give birth in May, and like many other small animals, the kits (up to five in a litter) are born blind and helpless. The experts say the young don't leave the nests until they are ten to twelve months old, but I have seen them outside, quite young, following their mother.

Under their tails, they have two scent glands, as if one wasn't enough. They are ground dwellers and poor runners, generally ambling along rather clumsily. They are primarily nocturnal, but I've seen them out in the daylight many times.

They are omnivores, eating anything from fruit to mice. They especially love cat food. They nest under something; logs, stumps and unfortunately, under houses that are built off the ground.

They have little fear of molestation, for easily understood reasons. When threatened, they turn their back, stamp their feet, raise their tail and prepare to spray the would-be attacker.

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO KNOW?

While they can't really be domesticated, they can be tamed, and make interesting, if not odd and often disagreeable pets. The first step in adopting them as a pet is to have their scent glands surgically removed at a very early age. As they grow to adulthood, they become more obnoxious and less pet-like.

When I was growing up in Matagorda County, we had a friend that had a pet skunk. This thing feared nothing, even though its natural defense had long been gone. It also thought it owned the place and reigned as king. It would bite you if it took the notion, so while it was a conversation piece, it was wise to avoid it just as much as you would in the wild.

Since we live in the country, I've had the chance to casually observe them in the wild. Even though the literature says that several adults may live in the same den, every skunk I've ever seen was solitary. The only time I've observed multiple skunks was when the mother had her kits out for exercise; in which case the mother skunk trotted along followed by 5 little kits, and they were chirping like birds to each other.

SKUNK CONTROL

I read somewhere that foxes are occasional predators of skunks. I have no evidence to back this up, but to be safe, we do encourage our foxes to feel comfortable being around our house. Since we have no chickens, ducks or other domestic fowl, foxes do not pose a problem for us. And, I will admit, we see a lot fewer skunks than we did twenty years ago.

They can be live-trapped with cat food and other bait. If you decide to do this, I suggest you set up the trap at least 100 feet or more from your house. Even if you trap them, what do you do with them?

There are those that advise you to "relocate" skunks if they are bothering you.

Let me know when you work out the kinks on this solution.

**Chapter News from
Bruce Bebow,
Communications Chair**



Dates:

January 11

February 8

March 8

April 12

May 10

June 14

July 12

August 9

September 13

October 11

November 8

December 13

These programs are the only ones you can watch as a recorded program and claim Advanced Training time. State office is very slow in announcing the speakers, so check the website to see what the program will be.

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

Catch the full #TMNTuesday at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2TrQoGF6xg>

Be The Change Workshop

April 2022

More details to follow



2022 Annual Meeting

October 20 – 23, 2022

Omni Hotel, Houston

Format coming

2022 Certification requirements are the same as 2021.

Temporary **AT** Requirements clarification:

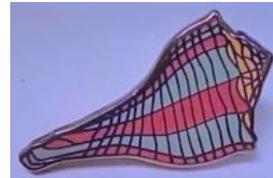
- Temp policy for pre-recorded AT sessions with **follow-up live** Q&A with the speaker. Hours for watching and then interacting with the speaker will count.
 - **NOT ALLOWED**: NO fully recorded videos with NO speaker interaction.
 - GOAL here is to allow group discussion with speakers where Q&A happens in group setting / audience for group learning.
- **NEW** 2021 Annual Meeting: Recorded sessions watched through April 2022 count for AT hours.
- TMN Tuesdays & Be the Change: Recorded sessions can be watched for AT hours.



2022 Annual Certification / Recertification Pin:

Lightning Whelk ([Busycon perversum pulleyi](#)),
The State Sea Shell of Texas

Interesting Fact: Lightning whelks are unusual in that they have a counterclockwise shell spiral (lightning whelks are usually called "left handed").



2021 Through Grit and Distance PIN

- **2021 PIN: Service Against All Odds – Through Grit & Distance**
 - For members who have logged – approx. 3,000 TMNs!
 - 8 Hours AT - AND -
 - At LEAST 1 Hour of Volunteer Service
- Will be mailed to all chapters **February/March 2022**
- VMS Reports will be pulled February 15th 2022
- Michelle will send a list of members who've obtained the pin with the mailing for chapters to distribute.
- Don't forget – **GET YOUR HOURS IN!**



Leadership Discussion (there's a lot more in the video)

- ~ Every TMN Member is a Leader
- ~ By being a part of the TMN Program, you are taking a lead in your community!
- ~ How to be a leader in your TMN chapter?
 - Stay involved
 - Join a committee
 - Take on a project
 - Attend an Annual Meeting
 - Be a part of the change for your chapter
 - Identify opportunities for growth & change
- ~ Communicate with the chapter & in your community
- ~ Bring your Creativity & Passion
- ~ Seek Feedback for involvement & growth

CHAPTER NEWS



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.
4. **Citizen Science** – Plans activities that qualify for Natural Resource Management (RM), Nature/Public Access (NPA), Field Research (FR), or Technical Guidance (TG). Examples include invasive plant removals; biological surveys; trail building and maintenance; and, create and maintain wildscapes and interpretive areas.
5. **Advanced Training** – Identify and approve training programs and provide information to Communications for dissemination to members.
6. **Communications** – External publicity including press releases and program announcements. Internal communications to include newsletter; website, and email to members.
7. **Membership** – All functions relating to VMS; order certification and milestone pins; maintain the Chapter roster.
8. **Fund Raising** – Plan and oversee fund raising events; grant writing.
9. **Hospitality** – Plan and organize social events at monthly programs, Chapter hosted events, and the end of year function.

Note: Committee Chairpersons are members of the Board and should attend the bi-monthly Board Meeting, held at 5:30 on odd numbered months (Jan, March, May etc.)

