

# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the  
Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter

OCTOBER 2014

Volume 12

Number 10

photo by Vern Crawford

T E X A S

Master  
Naturalist™



## OCTOBER MEETING: THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST

The Hill Country Land Trust is celebrating their fifteenth anniversary. Bill Lindemann, who is Vice President of the Trust, will tell us who they are, what they do, how they work, and what we can do to help promote their mission of protecting the Hill Country from ever increasing development pressure.

Everyone is welcome to join us on Monday, October 27 at 7p.m. in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority lecture hall, 125 N. Lehman Drive in Kerrville. Arrive at 6:30 to chat with members and guests.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . Vern Crawford

Oh, how I enjoy experiencing the changes of season as our planet home wobbles its way around the sun each year!

Daily I am made aware of just how fortunate we are to wake up each morning to the sights and sounds of the birds and squirrels that share our little .96 acre patch of "rural" Texas Hill Country, perched upon the north-eastern rim of the Guadalupe River, just down river from Center Point. From our deck, my sweetheart and I enjoy our morning coffee, overlooking the always beautiful native pasture lands of our neighbors just across the river.

We are beginning our sixth year here, and it has been easy to adapt to our new residence on the edge of a desert. Discovering the Texas Master Naturalists early after our arrival has been a major influence in our fairly rapid assimilation into our new home.

I was born and raised up in the big city of Fort Worth. Much of my adult life has been spent actually working all over the state with various civic groups in rural county seats and in many small rural communities. But at the end of each week I had always returned to my home base in the big city

Prior to actually moving here, there were always lawns to maintain to urban standards and codes, such that city officials planted large yellow "violation" notices nailed to posts driven into lawns that dared to have grasses growing longer than seven inches high!

When we first moved to our small but very rural property, I bought a small riding mower to supplement the small push lawn mower we already owned. Although it was just under an acre, it seemed like a good idea as our new property was still a much larger area to maintain.

Then we became involved with the chapter, and our concepts of lawn care radically changed for the better.

Now the view on our side of the river is a beautiful "lawn" full of tall native grasses and native forbs!

Anyone need to buy a small, barely used riding lawn mower?

Vern

## This Month We Honor

### Initial Certification

Pattie Boertje Nancye Drukker Audrey Hamel Mary Peoples Liz Ross



### Special Recertification

Mary Peoples

### 2014 Recertification

Steve Clyburn Kip Kiphart Charles Smith John Walker

### Milestones

Ann Carabin, Dan Carabin, Russell Vowell - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours

Dale Bransford, Jim Gardner - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours

Karen Millikan, Tara Randle - Gold Dragonfly, 1000 hours

Ginny de Wolf - Polished Silver Dragonfly, 2500 hours

Gracie Waggener, Glenn Randow - Gold/Ruby Dragonfly, 4000 hours



*Congratulations to these members who received their July awards at the September meeting.*

From left to right: Gracie Waggener, Glenn Randow, Julie Clay, Betty Clyburn, Ann Schneider, Lisa Flanagan, Richard Adams, Karen Millikan, Vern Crawford



*Congratulations to these members who received their August awards at the September meeting.*

From left to right: Floyd Trefny, Bob Wiedenfeld, Liz Ross, Nancye Drukker, Ann Dietert, Myrna Langford, Jim Jones, Jan Grimes, Sharon Hixson, Karen Burkett

## Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

9/5/2014 How to Make Your Garden Look Natural  
9/12/2014 What Happened to Our Horney Toads?  
9/19/2014 How Much Brush is Too Much Brush?  
9/26/2014 We Have Nice Wildflowers in the Fall Too

These and all other previous Kerrville Daily Times columns  
can be found at [www.hillcountrynaturalist.org](http://www.hillcountrynaturalist.org)

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Meeting & Advanced Training



Mo Ranch Conference Center  
Hunt, Texas  
October 24-26th, 2014

### OUR 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."



This year's annual meeting is proudly sponsored by:



TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



From Gracie Waggener

## WANTED

### Men's Neckties

If you are leaving the corporate world,  
have received too many ties for Fathers' Day,  
or like to shop garage sales,  
we need ties.

After a very busy summer we are out of ties to use for our kids activities and crafts.

If you have any ties you would like to donate to the cause,  
you can contact any of "Koy's Covey":

Koy Coffey - [kcoffer@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:kcoffer@texas-wildlife.org)

Cathy Downs - [mzdowns@hctc.net](mailto:mzdowns@hctc.net)

Sarah Hilburn - [shilburn3@yahoo.com](mailto:shilburn3@yahoo.com)

Gracie Waggener - [gwaggener@flow-apps.com](mailto:gwaggener@flow-apps.com)



From Betty Clyburn

### Flying Creatures at the Kroc Center

We started this school year off with 28 eager fourth and fifth graders and six volunteers: Julie Clay, Betty Clyburn, John Sloan, and Mary Frances Watson, together with our new recruits from the current class, Susan McKinley and Mary Thomas. The program was led by Craig Hensley the Texas Parks & Wildlife Ranger at Guadalupe River State Park.

Craig is a favorite presenter, always enthusiastic and knowledgeable. After the students named all the things that they could think of that fly: bats, birds, butterflies, dragonflies, damsel flies, moths. Craig showed examples of each, from a bat skeleton to bird feathers to Monarch caterpillars to a fabulous mounted collection of butterflies and moths.

The most engaging thing for the students was the "hands on" use of microscopes to see the butterfly wings, the dragonfly eyes (lots of facets), and the feathers of birds (different birds' feathers are adapted for warmth as well as to fly). They also enjoyed using loupes, small magnifiers which fit in your eye socket, to study the different stages of the caterpillars.

We had Monarch caterpillars supplied by Cathy Downs from tiny ones only a few hours old (first instar) to the large fat stage (fifth instar) ready to spin their silk thread to attach their chrysalis to a stem. The students fed the caterpillars milkweed which prompted our telling them about the native milkweed and the need to grow it for the migrating Monarchs. This was better than reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The volunteers always learn too! Just ask Julie or Betty the difference between a cocoon and a chrysalis.

## The ACORN Project

Would you like to see your neighborhood elementary and middle school students learning environmental research on their own campus? Even more surprising, they would be doing the research outdoors. Currently, there is a new program, the ACORN Project (Area Children Organized to Replant Natives), that does just that. As our children become more urbanized, teachers have become aware that many students feel uncomfortable outside. The phrase, "Nature Deficit Disorder" has been coined and generally accepted to label this phenomenon. Texas Children In Nature (TCIN) promotes recognition that children need to spend more time outdoors.

In 2012, the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Mathematics) Center at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio started a "think tank" to structure an environmental STEAM project that would solicit organizations and scientists to collaborate and support student's research. Augustine Frkuska at Crest View Elementary in Judson ISD and Kenton Page and Peggy Carnahan in Northside ISD are teachers on the "think tank" committee.

The Center started with the idea that most schools like to plant gardens or trees, but do not understand the science and mathematics of plant growth or have a sense of land stewardship. There are so many questions that students need to consider when planting: What kind of soil? What kind of plants grow in the Hill Country? How much water is necessary? Does season or temperature make a difference? What is a native plant? What is a pollinator? After many meetings with intense discussions at our local coffee shop, the "think tank" decided that the third through eighth grade students could focus on four major monitoring programs: waystations, tree grids, tree banding, and watersheds. Each ACORN campus can select one or more programs to implement.

The teacher and students may select to plant and monitor a waystation for pollinators. This may be a native flower garden or a prairie that will attract butterflies, bees, humming birds, or other local or migrating animals. If they want to attract monarch butterflies, they need to include local milkweeds in their project. A second program would be to plant a tree grid from seedlings or small trees and shrubs to study reforestation or restoration of native plants. Many of these students start plants from seeds that they have collected from native trees such as pecan, walnut, buckeye, and mountain laurel. If deer are a problem at their campus, the students will have to protect the plants with tall cages. Also, students may want to band and monitor tree growth and look for correlations with the atmosphere. If there is pond or stream close to the campus, the student may monitor the water.

The ACORN students take metric measurements using protocols and standardized scientific tools through programs sponsored by NASA, NOAA, GLOBE, and NSF. They record observations and analyze the data for any correlation of air, water, and soil temperature, cloud type and cover, dissolved oxygen, pH levels, conductivity, turbidity, rainfall, wind speed and direction, relative humidity, and barometric pressure with the local ecology over time. The student observations will be reported to the website ([project-acorn.net](http://project-acorn.net)) so that the advisory board can provide feedback to the campuses.

ACORN campuses may choose to collect data during class time or as an after school or SuperSaturday Club. There are two major community events per year: Arbor Day tree planting in the fall and Earth Day pollinators in the spring. Currently the ACORN project is expanding to Hill Country campuses and looking for Master Naturalist volunteers to assist teachers with the project. There will be ACORN training for teachers and volunteers in the summer of 2015. If you would like to participate, contact me at [carmp@ollusa.edu](mailto:carmp@ollusa.edu).



From Michelle Haggerty

**2014 Texas Plant Conservation Conference, November 6-8**  
Hosted by the University of Texas-Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center,  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Registration is now open for the 2014 Biennial Texas Plant Conservation Conference, November 6-8, 2014. For complete information or to register, please visit [http://www.wildflower.org/conservation\\_tpcc/](http://www.wildflower.org/conservation_tpcc/)

Come learn about current research and conservation projects on rare plants, native plant communities, plant monitoring methods and plant management practices of native Texas plants at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, one of the friendliest conference spots in Texas. The goal of the conference is to foster communication among conservation organizations, agencies, academics and the public about native plant conservation.

Highlights of this three day conference include plenary lectures, two days of talks along with 12 poster presentations, lifetime achievement awards presentations, and a social mixer-dinner buffet reception. Three one-half day field trips focusing on central Texas plants are offered on Saturday, Day 3 of the conference.

Speakers include:

Keynote: Dr. Fred E. Smeins, Professor of Ecology, Ecosystem Science and Management Department, Texas A&M University. "Plant Conservation in Texas Since the Signing of the Endangered Species Act: A Glance Through the Rearview Mirror."

Plenary: Jeffrey Keeling, Department of Biology, Sul Ross State University. "An Annotated Vascular Flora and Floristic Analysis of The Nature Conservancy's Davis Mountains Preserve, Jeff Davis County, Texas."

Talks and Poster Presentations include:

Current rare and endangered species research on Texas prairie dawn, Tobusch fishhook cactus and Navasota Ladies'-tresses funded with a novel mitigation grant from the USFWS.

Status updates and current research on Texas wildrice, Chisos Mountains hedgehog cactus, slender rushpea, dwarf broomspurge, south Texas ambrosia, Correll's false dragon head, Comanche Peak prairie clover and more.

Research reports and poster presentations on conservation education/outreach, plant-host interactions, vegetation classification, plant mapping and monitoring, rare species assessments, plant community structure and more.

Wildflower Center tours include:

Guided lunchtime tours of the Wildflower Center gardens, seed lab, green roof research plots, and more.

Field trips include:

Bull Creek Walk, Wade and Wonder with Bill Carr in Northwest Austin

The Purola Conservation Easement with Bob Harms near Dripping Springs

The Lady Bird Lake Boardwalk with Susan Plettman Rankin and Stan Wilson in downtown Austin

Questions? Contact Karen H. Clary at [kclary@wildflower.org](mailto:kclary@wildflower.org), SUBJECT: "TPCC"

Images submitted by two members of the Hill County Chapter to the Hill Country Alliance 2014 Photo Contest are among their "Top Photos":



"House Finch" by Cynthia Burgin



"Llano Jack" by Tyra Kane

### Native Plant Society November Meeting Features Native Seeds

The Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will feature Riverside Nature Center members Barbara Lowenthal and Susan Longacre, who will discuss "Gleaning, Collecting, Cleaning and Saving Native Seeds." The meeting is set for 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville. Visitors are welcome.

Barbara is the Meadow Supervisor at the Riverside Nature Center and undertook its renovation with the help of dedicated volunteers. Her team waters, tends, and weeds the wildflower meadow on a weekly basis. Barbara writes a regular article in the Riverside Nature Notes, a newsletter that goes out to RNC members on a monthly basis. Her report includes pictures of the meadow and insets and birds that frequent it. She also takes groups of children and adults through the meadow and identifies the species present.

Assisting Barbara in the presentation will be Susan Longacre. Susan has been Barbara's partner in the meadow, has taken over the gleaning efforts, and continues to be a leader for the volunteers.

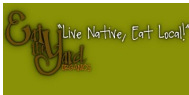
For more information contact Barbara Stidham at 830-928-3202.





# Texas Pollinator PowWow

## SPONSORS



E-mail:  
carrie.mclaughlin58@gmail.com;  
ricky.linex@tx.usda.gov

Saturday, November 15, 2014

Mansfield ISD Center for the Performing Arts,  
1110 W Debbie Lane, Mansfield, Texas 76063.  
For registration: <http://txpollinatorpowwow.weebly.com/>

Birds and bats, bees and beetles, butterflies and bugs, and more! Come learn about Texas plants and their pollinators, the conservation challenges they are facing, and how YOU can help! Our first annual TEXAS POLLINATOR POWWOW 2014\* brings you topics ranging from native plants and bees, to hummingbirds and honey bees, to urban and rural land management best practices by experts from around the state. We will also have a great group of exhibitors on hand all day to answer questions, provide resources, and showcase their organizations. There will be live exhibits featuring butterflies, caterpillars and the precious bat 'ambassadors' from Bat World. Desirable pollinator-related items will be available by raffle at the end of the day (your presence is required to win).

Our steering committee of like-minded individuals is pleased to present to you some of the best and brightest of minds and committed professionals in pollination conservation today. It is our desire that the general public be edified, educated and entertained, and that conservation staff and volunteers be enabled to network with others outside their narrow focus while being provided with a popular venue to share their missions with the community at large. \*Please look soon for more information about TEXAS POLLINATOR POWWOW 2015 at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas.

**Welcome and Purpose**—Carrie McLaughlin, Texas Master Naturalist and Moderator

**Overview of Native Bees of Texas**—Michael Warriner, Nongame and Rare Species Program Leader, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

**Bumble Bees in Urban Places** - Jessica Beckham, Ph.D. Candidate, University of North Texas

**Activist Notes from The Urban Beekeepers/North Texas** - Susan & Brandon Pollard, Bee Whisperers, Texas Honeybee Guild

**Eat The Yard - The Pollinator's Importance to the Urban Farmer** - Steve Smith & James Jeffers, Eat The Yard Organics (a veteran-owned enterprise)

**Luncheon sponsored by Kinetic Solutions LLC**

**Pollinators and Natives: An Ancient Marriage** - Randy Johnson, Dallas Zoo Horticulture Manager, Randy Johnson Organics

**Birds as Pollinators** - Mark Klym, Wildlife Biologist and Author, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

**Chiroptera: The Environmental Cornerstone** - Kate Rugroden, Director of Bat World Mid-Cities, Wildlife Rehabilitator and Author

**Conservation Practices to Protect Bees on Your Property** - Anne Stine, Pollinator Conservation Specialist, Xerces Society

**Farm Bill Programs & Plantings for Pollinators** - Ricky Linex, Wildlife Biologist and Author, Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Wildlife Management Tax Valuations: the new property tax exemption** - Brett Johnson, Urban Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department



FORESTS FOR MONARCHS





## The View from Rusty Bend



Copyright 2014 Lucy Griffith

What could be lovelier than to hear the summer rain  
Cutting across the heat, as scythes cutting across grain?  
Falling upon the steaming roof with sweet uproar,  
Tapping and rapping wildly at the door?  
No, do not lift the latch, but through the pane  
We'll stand and watch the circus pageant  
Of the rain,  
And see the lightening, like a tiger, striped and dread,  
And hear the thunder cross the shaken sky  
With elephant tread.

--Elizabeth Coatsworth

The rains have come at last to Rusty Bend. Nature rises from her August nap, and waves her green wand. The pasture heals. Like a miniature version of spring, the flowers pop out again. Navajo Tea and Zexmenia nod their golden heads. Kidneywood blossoms look like tiny cream colored candelabras, and sweeten the air. On foggy mornings, another fragrance wafts from the tiniest of flowers on the threadvine. Its miniscule white crosses pack a powerful scent.

All the edges of the woods are softened by a caress of fog, as if the landscape has had a facial. The cracks are healed, the dust is gone, and heavy dew's scent each dawn.

As I stroll through the garden each day, I note that rain has pushed the native passionflower vine to explode with blossoms and crawl onto the "garden roof" of poultry netting. This year it is swarming with the burnt orange Gulf Fritillary butterfly. Host plant seems too meek a description for what happens. They feed voraciously on the vine, eventually reducing it to little green sticks. They mate on it. The caterpillars crawl all over it. Everywhere there is orange and black. They lay their eggs on it or nearby. Their dried leaf looking pupa hang from it. They emerge and hover and dart, an eruption of color. Feels like we are raising them like a crop. A butterfly garden takes on new meaning.

I walk to an area of the property we call the "steppe." Up several ledges, it is flat on top. The soil shifts colors from pale caliche to a rusty red. Perhaps the Tarpley clay formation. Blackjack Oaks and Post Oaks seem to like that red clay and are thriving up on the steppe.

The steppe has a secrecy about it. In the thickets, different birds are singing, more flycatchers of all sizes. The Brown Thrasher and the Scrub-jay are noisy. A Summer Tanager hunts the edges for wasps and bees. I see a whitetail buck in velvet, eating dark, ripe persimmons. Boing, he pulls one off the bush. His teeth are purple. And after a rain, the steppe has a different smell, too, herbal and flinty.

Some early fall color is starting already, the turmeric Cedar Elm and the yellowing out of the Hackberries. Our favorite spots of color are the migrating Baltimore Orioles, splashing orangely in the highest boughs. The rusty bibs of the Cliff Swallows sparkle as they dance over the river, nabbing a hatch.

With the return of the rains, the balm of Nature's comfort seems very present. I find that I seek its healing after a recent death in the family. What is it that is so restorative? Is it the regularity, the dependability of the cycles? Or is it that they still surprise and refresh? Or the interplay of both? Rachel Carson believed that "Those who dwell... among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life." So may it be for me. May I keep my heart wide open for the small things that bring me joy.

*Lucy Griffith, PhD co-manages the Rusty Bend Ranch with her husband, Andy Robinson. When she is not on her tractor, she practices Clinical Psychology. When the tractor is broken, Andy is fixing it. Both Lucy and Andy are certified Master Naturalists from the Class of 2013. Comments are welcome at [oodie1950@gmail.com](mailto:oodie1950@gmail.com).*

## Advanced Training

### **THURSDAY, OCT. 23 12-1PM WEBINAR - CoCoRAHS**

AT 14-151 ATMOSPHERIC RIVERS

Atmospheric Rivers (AR) are relatively narrow regions in the atmosphere that are responsible for most of the horizontal transport of water vapor outside of the tropics. This presentation will provide a brief history of understanding atmospheric rivers as a phenomenon and as a key factor in precipitation in many regions. Efforts to better monitor and predict ARs will be summarized. Go to <http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=wxtalk> .

### **FRIDAY-SUNDAY, OCT. 24-16 MO RANCH CONFERENCE CENTER, HUNT**

AT 14-047 TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST ANNUAL MEETING AND ADVANCED TRAINING

For agenda, go to <http://txmn.org/files/2014/02/TMN-Annual-Meeting-Agenda-2014.pdf>

### **SATURDAY, OCT. 25 10AM-4PM DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK (29401 RANCH ROAD 12)**

AT 14-147 RAINWATER REVIVAL

To celebrate this timeless conservation practice, rainwater collection professionals and enthusiasts converge for Hill Country Alliance's Fifth Annual Rainwater Revival. Open to the public; free. Go to <http://www.hillcountryalliance.org/HCA/News081814> for more information; for a schedule of events, go to <http://rainwaterrevival.com/schedule> .

### **MONDAY, OCT. 27 7-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE**

AT 14-180 THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST

Bill Lindemann, Vice President of the Trust, will speak at our monthly meeting on what the Trust is, how it works, and what we can do to help promote their mission to protect the Hill Country from ever-increasing development pressure.

### **TUESDAY, OCT. 28 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG**

AT 14-187 TEXAS PRAIRIES

Jason Singhurst will address the monthly meeting of the Fredricksburg Chapter of the Texas Native Plant Society. Go to <http://npsot.org/fredericksburg> for more information.

### **WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29 1-2PM WEBINAR - PROJECT EDUBAT**

AT 14-188 BATS

Special appearances by live bats and bat experts Cathy Johnson, U.S. Forest Service; Dianne Odegard, Bat Conservation International; Ann Froschauer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Leslie Sturges, The Save Lucy Campaign. To watch the live webcast, go to <http://nctc.fws.gov/broadcasts> and click on the "NCTC Channel 1" photo/icon at the top of the page. Or, go to <http://nctc.fws.gov/resources/knowledge-resources/video-gallery/education-outreach.html> to watch later.

### **WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29 1:15PM TEXAS LIONS CAMP, KERRVILLE**

AT 14-145 GRASS IDENTIFICATION

Jim Stanley presents the Fall Grass ID class. Even if you have taken the course before, you can earn Advanced Training credit if you feel you will learn more by repeating the class.

### **THURSDAY-SATURDAY, NOV. 6-8 9AM-5PM LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER, AUSTIN**

AT 14-176 TEXAS PLANT CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

For complete information or to register, go to [http://www.wildflower.org/conservation\\_tpcc/](http://www.wildflower.org/conservation_tpcc/) .

**TUESDAY, NOV. 11 1:30-3:00PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE (RNC)**

AT 14-190 GLEANING, COLLECTING, CLEANING, AND SAVING NATIVE SEEDS

Barbara Lowenthal and Susan Longacre will demonstrate techniques for efficiently collecting and preparing wildflower seeds for replanting and increasing species of native plants.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 15 9AM-4PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE (CNC)**

AT 14-182 WATER QUALITY TESTING &amp; STREAM TEAM TRAINING

Join stream team coordinator Donna Taylor to learn how to test water for conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH (acidity) and temperature, as well as to make field observations regarding water flow, color, clarity and conditions. Suggested donation, \$10; bring a sack lunch. For more information, contact Donna Taylor at [donna@cibolo.org](mailto:donna@cibolo.org) or 830-249-4616.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 15 8AM-5PM MANSFIELD ISD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

AT 14-183 TEXAS POLLINATOR POWWOW

Learn about Texas plants and their pollinators, the conservation challenges they are facing, and how you can help. Registration (\$15, including lunch, before Nov. 6; \$25 after that date) Go to <http://txpollinatorpowwow.weebly.com/2014-event-information-and-registration> for more information and registration.

**MONDAY, NOV. 17 6:30-8:30PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE**

AT 14-193 TEXAS BATS

Nyta Brown, Superintendent/Biologist for Old Tunnel State Park, will speak at our monthly meeting.

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19 9AM-12PM GAULT SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, SAN MARCOS**

AT 14-191 FIELD TRIP TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Dr. D. Clark Wernecke, Executive Director of the school, will lead this guided tour, which begins at 9am. Cost: \$10. per person; the proceeds support the Gault School. Bring snacks, water, and lunch. Go to <http://www.gaultschool.org> for more information and directions to the site. For more information about this event and car pooling, contact Kay Harter at [harterkr@yahoo.com](mailto:harterkr@yahoo.com).

**SATURDAY, DEC. 6 9AM-12PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE (CNC)**

AT 14-186 WINTER SPARROWS AND WRENS WORKSHOP

Experienced birders Tom and Patsy Inglet will review the numerous sparrows and wrens of the Texas Hill Country. Attendees will learn field identification points including subtle differences in patterning and flight patterns. This workshop is for intermediate birders who want to become more proficient at field identification of winter sparrows and wrens; classroom presentation and time in the field are included. Cost: CNC members \$15; non-members \$20; free to Winter Prairie Bird Survey Participants. Go to [nature@cibolo.org](mailto:nature@cibolo.org) to register, or call 830-249-4616.

The newsletter's publication schedule does not allow listing all AT events in each issue.  
Check the chapter calendar on our website for additional AT.



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months at 7:00 PM in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

Join us at 6:30 for our social half-hour.

Everyone is welcome.

### Texas Master Naturalist 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.

### **Board of Directors 2014**

Vern Crawford -- President  
 Kathy Ward -- Vice President  
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 Liz Ross -- 2014 Class Director  
 Lisa Flanagan -- 2013 Class Representative  
 Priscilla Stanley -- Immediate Past President

The Texas Star is a monthly publication of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. News, essays, comments, and ideas are welcome.

Please email them to:

**Lenore Langsdorf, Editor**  
[LenoreLangsdorf@gmail.com](mailto:LenoreLangsdorf@gmail.com)

The Hill Country Chapter does not recommend or endorse organizations or commercial sources mentioned in our newsletter. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and editor.

LEARN  
MORE ON  
OUR WEBSITE

[TXMN.ORG/HILLCOUNTRY/](http://TXMN.ORG/HILLCOUNTRY/)

Keeping the Hill  
Country Native

### *Questions about our chapter?*

Email Becky Etzler,  
 Membership Director  
[hillcountrymasternaturalist@gmail.com](mailto:hillcountrymasternaturalist@gmail.com)

