

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter



FEBRUARY 2014

Volume 12

Number 2

FEBRUARY 24 MEETING: HUMMINGBIRDS OF TEXAS

Mark Klym, biologist with the Wildlife Diversity Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will be our speaker. He will introduce us to the species we're most likely to see and the plants they prefer. He coordinates the Texas Hummingbird Roundup as well as the Texas Whooper Watch and Texas Wildscapes, and will talk about the role of citizen scientists in feeding and monitoring hummingbirds.

Everyone is welcome to join us on Monday, February 24, at 7 p.m. in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's lecture hall, 125 N. Lehmann Drive in Kerrville. Arrive at 6:30 to chat with members and guests.

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . Vern Crawford

Our mission as Texas Master Naturalists is "to develop a group of well informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our communities."

Appropriately, last month this column highlighted some of the commendable achievements and milestones of our Hill Country Chapter members for the past year.

This month the spotlight will focus on the leadership of our chapter. Past and current officers, directors and committee members dedicate much of their efforts to ensuring that the organizational infrastructure is in place and properly functioning. Diligently keeping on top of the multifaceted details within their individual areas of responsibility is necessary to support all of our chapter's activities and projects.

By the time you read this, our chapter's leadership will have just completed its first Board Retreat, hosted at Camp C.A.M.P. The retreat is not only an opportunity to set goals for the year, but also to explore and better understand the many interrelated communications and actions necessary between each of these folks to make everything function smoothly and efficiently.

In the process of preparing for the retreat, I came across this from a 2004 report by Sandy Peña, the first Hill Country Chapter President:

"In order to carry out our mission locally, our chapter has set as a primary goal the training of 25 new volunteers each year, and this class is our third group of excellent candidates."

And also "Other goals which the chapter identified to work on achieving are: increasing the diversity of our members; getting more members to our monthly meetings; starting a Junior Master Naturalist program in conjunction with the state effort; and making our website more user-friendly."

Now, ten years later, as we prepare for the Class of 2014, we have met or exceed all of those early goals except diversity. We welcome your ideas for increasing our efforts toward that goal.

To all past, continuing and future chapter leadership: Thank you!

Vern

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Ann Schneider

2014 Recertification

Rheda Boardman Daneshu Clarke Jim Clarke
Tom Collins Kristie Denbow Glenn Randow

Milestones

Sarah Hilburn - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours
Rheda Boardman, Jack Millikan - Gold Dragonfly, 1000 hours



Congratulations to members who received awards at the January meeting.

From left to right in group of four: Evelyn Vitone, Melissa Seymour, Cay Russ, Leanne Beauxbeannes
From left to right in larger group: Kathy Ward, Shirley Nedry, Roger McRoberts, Cay Russ, Melanie Swan, Terry Swan, Joe von Rosenberg, Sharon Hixson, Pat McCormick, Ernest Smith, Paula Smith

Monarch Garden Grants Announced for 2014

by Bill Hopkins

The Monarch butterfly population has declined to the lowest point in over twenty years, according to research scientists. The Native Plant Society of Texas is raising awareness by awarding grants to build Monarch butterfly demonstration gardens for a second year through its Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas program.



Grants of between \$50 to \$400 will be awarded to qualifying applicants to build Monarch Waystations or demonstration gardens containing milkweed and butterfly nectar plants. The application deadline is March 15 and all grants will be awarded by April 19. More details here.

Last year Bring Back the Monarch to Texas helped create 19 Monarch demonstration or Monarch Waystation gardens across the state. Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas is a joint project of the Native Plant Society of Texas and MonarchWatch. Its purpose is to educate about Monarch conservation, to produce and distribute milkweeds that support reproduction by Monarch butterflies, and to restore Monarch habitats throughout the Texas migration flyway.

Program chair Cathy Downs reported that her committee distributed \$4,000 between 19 locations to build, certify and/or improve Monarch habitat last year. Eleven of the gardens are completed; eight have certified as Monarch Waystations and three are pending certification. Four locations are doing additional planting and four others will continue construction in the spring. Six of the gardens thus far have received on-site visits and either a Monarch presentation or a workshop.

One garden hosted a bike run with a garden tour and Monarch info booth. Another garden had a tagging event with 275 folks tagging 360 Monarchs. One garden introduced "Monarchs in the Classroom" to the local school system and another was interviewed by their local TV station. Three gardens wrote articles for their area/chapter newsletters or newspapers.

According to the World Wildlife Fund, the Monarch population has reached the lowest number in twenty years. In an interview published by the Washington Post, Lincoln Brower, a professor of biology at Sweet Briar College who has studied monarch migrations for decades, cited three reasons for Monarch population decline: deforestation in Mexico, recent bouts of severe weather, and the growth of herbicide-based agriculture destroying crucial milkweed flora in the Midwest.

The Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas program is also looking for educators and presenters to help get the message across all over the state, as well as volunteers for varied activities such as planting seeds and helping out at education booths. Contact Cathy Downs for more information. If you would like to help support the program with a donation contact Pam Middleton or donate online.

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

- 1/3/14 "Watching Whooping Cranes in Texas"
- 1/10/14 "Bacteria and Fungi: Essential to Life as We Know it"
- 1/17/14 "Non-Native Plants and Animals: A Real Problem"
- 1/24/14 "Where Do Our Wildlife Find Their Food?"
- 1/31/14 "Native Hill Country Plants That Need Our Help"

These and all other previous Kerrville Daily Times columns can be found at www.hillcountrynaturalist.org/columns.htm.

From Floyd Trefny

Many of us make purchases using Amazon.com as part of our everyday lives. Amazon has a new program that provides grants to charitable organizations. All you have to do is start your Amazon shopping on an alternate log on site at: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0587584> .

Use your regular Amazon password, shop at Amazon, and the Hill Country Master Naturalist will get a donation of 0.5% of your total purchases. This can really add up with the large organization we have.

How does AmazonSmile work?

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. We are all set up, so just enter "Hill Country Master Naturalist" as your charity of choice and donations will automatically be made to our account. The chapter board will use the donations to help meet our chapter's mission.



Texas Stream Team *Paddlers* Needs Master Naturalists

Join the *Texas Stream Team* - a group of some 8,000 men, women, and children who have been active stewards of Texas waterways since 1991. If you canoe or kayak – *or would like to* – you can become a founding member of the **Texas Stream Team Paddlers**.

You'll be trained and equipped to monitor the quality of your favorite lakes, streams, or estuaries. You'll become part of a citizen-based early warning system. Your data will support important water research, management, and conservation efforts.

Texas Stream Team also works with educators, parents, youth-focused organizations, and others to teach young people about water, the environment, and the enjoyment and stewardship of both. If you are interested but you don't have a boat, don't worry: There are lots of landside opportunities too. For example, every year, some 125,000 visit our Spring Lake education facility to learn about Texas water.

Texas Stream Team *Paddlers* is now hosting orientations and trainings across the state. To find out how you can get involved, contact: Travis Tidwell, Texas Stream Team Program Coordinator, 512 245-9148 or txstreamteam@txstate.edu, or MeadowsCenter.TXState.edu/ .

Native Plant Society of Texas - Boerne Chapter. March Monthly Chapter Meeting Tuesday, March 4, 2014

James Rice, Superintendent for the TPWD Albert & Bessie Kronkosky (ABK) State Natural Area, will discuss the past land use of the property as well as the current work being done to prepare the natural area for public visitation. Mr. Rice retired after 30 years in the Outdoor/Environmental Education/Camp Director profession. He joined the Wildlife Division of TPWD in 2004 before moving over to the Park Division at Government Canyon in 2012. He became the Superintendent for the ABKSNA in 2013.

Presentation begins at 7pm, but everyone is invited to socialize at 6:30. For details: Please contact Emily Weiner, Public Relations, NPSOT - Boerne Chapter, <http://npsot.org/boerne/> or emily.a.weiner@gmail.com or 210-259-7009.

from Sarah Hilburn

Here a Mammal, There a Mammal, Everywhere a Mammal: Craig Hensley's Visit to the Kroc Center Program

Do you know which mammal is the only marsupial found in North America? It is our very own Virginia Opossum. Craig Hensley from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department brought skulls and furs from some of the mammals found in our area.

Craig first had the students review some of the unique characteristics of a mammal; body covered with hair, warm blooded and young are nourished by milk. One of the most common and important methods for identifying mammals is by looking at the skull and teeth.

Students were given a skull and asked to identify the mammal by the features specific to their skull; size, location of the eyes, and type of teeth. Students were able to tell if their animal was a herbivore or a carnivore by looking at the teeth. Most of the students were able to identify their animal with a little help from Craig and the volunteers! Craig then passed around some animal furs and had the students identify the mammal by the fur. The mountain lion was their favorite because of the huge claws. Did you know the Virginia Opossum can "play possum" up to 16 hours?

The HCMN volunteers present were Rheda Boardman, Julie Clay, Sarah Hilburn, Martha Miesch, Pat Nelson, John Sloan, and Mary Frances Watson.



photos by Rheda Boardman

From Kathy Ward

Master Naturalists at the Texas State University Gault Project



On Feb. 1st, 34 Hill Country Master Naturalists enjoyed a fascinating treat when they visited the Gault Archeological Site operated by the nonprofit Gault School of Archeological Research. Dr. Clark Wernecke, the archeologist who is Executive Director of the school and the Project Director for the site, was our guide. He started his story of about 15,000 years of inhabitants in the area by



telling us the history of a workers' railroad car from a short track of the Bartlett-Florence Railway (early 1900s), which served as a home for later settlers and still stands near the gate of the Gault property.

We then walked further back into the site where relics from the Late Prehistoric Period (1,200-500 years ago) included small arrowheads. Relics from the Late Archaic Period (4,000-1,200 years ago) included large atlatl dart points. Middle Archaic hunters (6,000-4,000 years ago) also used the atlatl. Dr. Wernecke demonstrated the use of the atlatl, which is a two-part lever that could send a six-foot spear with enough force to kill a large animal.



The burned rock middens we walked through date from 3,500-5,000 years ago. Early Archaic Period (10,800-6,000 years ago) as well as the later archaic peoples used burned rock ovens to bake Camas Lily bulbs. When dried, these could be ground into flour. Late Paleoindian Period people

(12,000-10,800 years ago) left a cobble floor, a remnant of the likely candidate for the first house in America. Among the artifacts of the Paleoindian Period were incised stones that are the earliest art with a known date in the Americas. The site has fewer artifacts from the Folsom culture (12,900-12,000 years ago), which indicates that these people were not frequent visitors to the site. Among the relics of Clovis culture (13,200-12,900 years ago)



are projectile points and different kinds of tools for working leather and wood. One of the 20 Clovis Columbian Mammoth kill sites in the USA, and sixty percent of Clovis artifacts found in the Americas, are on this site.

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At the end of the tour I purchased a book with this information and many fine pictures; the title is *The Gault Site (41BL323) Bell County, Texas*. It was published last year by Clark Wernecke, Michael B. Collins, and Sergio Ayala.



The highlight of the tour was a large open pit covered by a tent where volunteers had slowly dug, inch by inch sifting the dirt through layers of different ages, until they reached the Clovis culture level. To their surprise there were distinctive artifacts older-than-Clovis (>13,200 years ago) found deeper in the soil. They are still studying the various tools found at that level.

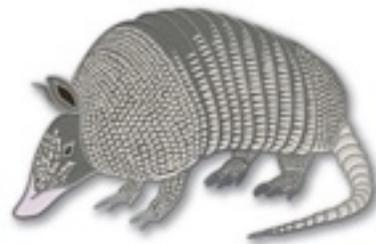


This site has yielded over two million artifacts found by over 6000 volunteers--both archeologists and non-archeologists--from all over the

world. Their objective is to understand the behavior of the early peoples who lived on the site. Evidently this was an unusual place that provided an easy habitat with water for different groups to live. It is an ecotone where four different ecosystems meet, which provided a large variety of animals and plants for food. The Edwards formation on the surface provided the best quality chert for tool making and also provided material for trade. Today the Gault Site provides archeologists with many research questions, such as: How did they break the chert along a straight line when the physical property of chert is to break with a shell-like fracture? Another question is: How did the older-than-Clovis peoples arrive in this area? Our group had so many questions that, thanks to Clark Wernecke's generosity in sharing his time with us, our tour lasted three and a half delightful hours.

photos by Vern Crawford

Master Naturalists recertify annually to retain their Certified Master Naturalist designation and receive the current year's pin. Annual certification requires 40 volunteer hours on approved projects and eight hours of approved advanced training. This year's pin is a nine-banded armadillo.



Dripping Springs Named The First International Dark Sky Community In Texas

The stars at night remain big and bright deep in the heart of the Texas – thanks to the hard work and dedication of Texas Hill Country residents. The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) announced today it has designated the first International Dark Sky Community in Texas. In naming the City of Dripping Springs International Dark Sky Community, IDA is pleased to recognize local efforts to protect and preserve the character of the nighttime sky over central Texas. “Dripping Springs joins a select club as the world’s sixth Dark Sky Community,” said IDA Executive Director Bob Parks. “They’ve embraced smart lighting through effective controls that improve visibility, while preserving the night sky.”

Dripping Springs bills itself as the “Gateway To The Hill Country” and is often the first stop in Texas for visitors coming from the east. “When people enter the Dripping Springs area at night, many of them notice something is different – the skies over the city are not spoiled by light pollution,” explained Todd Purcell, Mayor of Dripping Springs. “This is evidence that the city and the people who live in and near the city value the natural environment, including the beauty of the Hill Country and high quality of the night sky.”

Balancing Economic Growth And Environmental Protection

A formerly sleepy ranching town settled before the Civil War, the city experienced massive growth in the last decade, seeing its population increase by some 72 percent between 2000 and 2010. The growth has been fueled by the economies of the nearby urban centers of Austin and San Antonio. Alarmed that future development could bring light pollution, concerned residents organized to protect the area’s famously dark night skies. Early on, the City Council became involved by adopting an Outdoor Lighting Ordinance (OLO) in 2000. The OLO was conceived by a group of local citizens led by the late John Gregory. Current and former City Councilmen and Planning and Zoning Commissioners then embraced and enhanced the provisions of the OLO with the assistance of City Attorney Alan Bojorquez. Since then, the city government has been a committed partner in protecting local dark skies.

“We are all fortunate that the City of Dripping Springs has over a period of many years worked to reduce and prevent additional light pollution in the city,” said Cindy Luongo Cassidy, President of Texas-based Green Earth Lighting, who led the effort to secure IDA recognition of the dark skies over Dripping Springs.

Although only about 2,000 residents live within the legal limits of the city, an additional 30,000 people living in neighboring unincorporated areas are part of the community. City staffers, particularly, Michelle Fischer, Jon Thompson and Jo Ann Touchstone have worked diligently to help local businesses and property owners follow the OLO and to provide information on the lighting standards for the community. This results in reduced glare, light trespass, and skyglow while increasing safety, visibility, area attractiveness, and protection of dark night skies. “Dripping Springs is well on its way to securing a place as one of the truly night-sky-friendly communities in the United States,” Former IDA Texas Coordinator Stephen Bosbach said.

Protecting A Cultural Legacy

“The history and culture of the Hill Country is intimately tied to its sky, particularly its night sky,” explained John Cassidy, President of the Board of Trustees of the Pound House Foundation, a local historic preservation group. “Whether sitting around a campfire or sitting in the darkness of their homesteads, those who went before us understood this land in a fundamental way that we must preserve. The clear view of the stars at night is a resource that must be saved and passed along to future generations.” To help pass along the value of dark skies, the city has teamed up with the Hays County Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist association to develop a light pollution education and outreach program conducted by local volunteer Naturalists. The volunteers will also carry out a plan to measure and monitor the night sky quality in the future.

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Residents hope that the IDA recognition for Dripping Springs will promote a movement across the Hill County to protect their exceptional night skies for generations to come. According to P. Wayne Gosnell of the Hill County Alliance, the Dripping Springs OLO is a model for similar ordinances under consideration by communities throughout the 17-county Hill Country region. In naming the International Dark Sky Community, IDA “provides incentives to other Hill County communities to follow Dripping Springs’ lead in night sky preservation,” Gosnell said.

City residents recognize that the most important threats to the quality of their night skies come from beyond Dripping Springs. “Now we have to set our sights on the lights of Austin and San Antonio,” Cindy Cassidy said. “We have to look beyond our town so that we don’t simply get flooded with light from elsewhere.”

Cassidy is part of a team effort to secure cooperation from cities along the Interstate 35 corridor to protect the dark skies of Central Texas by stemming the growth of new, wasteful outdoor lighting installations. She hopes other municipalities will follow Dripping Springs’ lead and invites them to participate in a “better lighting” symposium to be held there in September.

About the IDA Dark Sky Places Program IDA established the International Dark Sky Places conservation program in 2001 to recognize excellent stewardship of the night sky. Designations are based on stringent outdoor lighting standards and innovative community outreach. Since the program began, five communities, thirteen parks and five reserves have received International Dark Sky designations. For more information about the International Dark Sky Places Program, visit <http://darksky.org/night-sky-conservation/dark-sky-places>.

About IDA The International Dark Sky Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, advocates for the protection of the nighttime environment and dark night skies by educating policymakers and the public on the subject of night sky conservation and by promoting environmentally responsible outdoor lighting. More information about IDA and its mission may be found at <http://www.darksky.org>.

reprinted from Hill Country Alliance Newsletter, February 11, 2014

How-to from the Webmaster

Kristie Denbow

A new feature. Find all of the chapter's online forms in the right side bar. Click on FORMS to open a drop down listing that displays our currently available forms. You can submit an AT event or propose a new volunteer project. Quickly and easily update your contact information with our handy form. Project Coordinators can add events and activities to the calendar. Friends, family, and folks you meet can sign up to receive our award-winning newsletter or request an LMAP visit from our knowledgeable members. The class application will be available in April, and new forms will appear as needed. Fill out a form today!

Questions or comments? hillcountrywebmaster@gmail.com

The first in a series of water-related workshops will be held March 21-22 at Mansfield Park Recreational Hall, 2886 Highway 16 North in Bandera. The event will be held from 6-9 p.m. on March 21 and from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on March 22. The free workshop is open to anyone interested in water related issues in the Bandera region, said program coordinators. Participants are encouraged to preregister at the Bandera County Water Awareness Series website at <http://agriflife.org/bcwa>.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo

The event is presented through a collaborative effort of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District, and the Ranchers and Landowners Association of Texas. “The workshop is designed to help residents improve and protect their water resources,” said Fidel C. Ramirez, president of the Ranchers and Landowners Association of Texas. Our goal is to provide citizens with a better understanding of how water resources are used and managed in Texas, so they can make informed decisions regarding their own water.” The seminar will include a discussion of surface and groundwater systems, types and sources of water pollution, ways to improve and protect water quality, and conservation strategies.

“Water is becoming an increasingly important issue for Texans,” said Sam Womble, AgriLife Extension agent for Bandera County. “In our region, surface and groundwater are paramount. They are sources of water for drinking, municipal supply, agriculture, fishing, recreational activities and wildlife habitat. Due to its importance, this event will be the first of several water-related workshops planned for Bandera.”

March 21 activities will include presentations on Texas water law from Real County Judge Garry A. Merritt and local hydrogeology by geologist Feather Wilson, said coordinators. March 22 will be a full day of educational programming, demonstrations, and exhibits.

Womble said the educational programming on March 22 is being facilitated by AgriLife Extension’s Texas Well Owner Network and Texas Watershed Steward program. Lunch on that day will be provided by the Ranchers and Landowners Association of Texas. The Texas Watershed Steward presentation will include an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas, but will primarily focus on water quality issues relating to the Medina River, including current efforts to help improve and protect water in the area. Attendees can also expect to learn about groundwater resources in the area through presentations from the Texas Well Owner Network, a program created to aid Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs.

“Well owners who want to become familiar with Texas groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance and construction, water quality, and water treatment will benefit from this training,” said Drew Gholson, AgriLife Extension program specialist and coordinator for the network. Gholson said surface and groundwater are connected and the interaction shouldn’t be ignored. “Aquifers may discharge to streams and streams can be a major source of recharge for the aquifer,” he said. “Many natural processes and human activities from one source can affect the other.” Gholson said attendees will learn about these interactions and how to employ management practices around their homes, businesses, and agricultural lands to help protect rivers, streams, and aquifers in the area for generations to come. Participants will receive a free handbook and earn continuing education credits or units related to various professional associations or agencies. “This seminar is a great opportunity to get involved and learn about your local water resources,” Gholson said.

For more information, go to the website or contact Womble at 830-796-7755 or ebandera-tx@tamu.edu.

For more information on the Texas Watershed Steward program and Texas Well Owner Network contact Galen Roberts at 979-862-8070, groberts@ag.tamu.edu, or Gholson at 979-845-1461, dgholson@tamu.edu.

The Texas Watershed Steward program and Texas Well Owner Network are funded through a Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

reprinted from the Hill Country Alliance “Neighbor to Neighbor News,” Feb. 4, 2014

The View from Rusty Bend



image by Lucy Griffith

*...as the wind grew stronger,
shaping its work
less delicately,
taking greater steps*

*over the hills
and through the trees
until, finally,
we were cold,*

*and far from home.
We turned
and followed our long shadows back
to the house,*

*stamped our feet,
went inside, and shut the door.
Through the window
we could see*

*how far away it was to the gates of April.
Let the fire now
put on its red hat
and sing to us.*

-- Mary Oliver

The bones of the landscape have been laid bare at Rusty Bend. A winter landscape exposes a different story than fall's lush shades or the welcome greens of spring.

The edges grab your focus. The Great Blue Heron glides below treeline, like ink trailing slowly from a pen.

The edge of the river has changed. The languid olive tones of summer have been replaced by slate blue, clear coldness rubbing the sedges and fallen grasses. On frigid mornings, ice rims the shallows, frozen bubbles lodged firmly beneath.

The boundary of the woods is busy, where critters scramble for seeds and hide from the wind. Trembling with birds, *Agarita* and *Nolina* tell a tale of protection. *Fencelines* along the fields are decorated with meadowlarks and sparrows that float out like a seining net to hide in the stubble.

Known for crepuscular wanderings, Gray Foxes dance lightly along the cliff, tracing the edge of evening. Red-Shouldered Hawks have returned to cruise the curve of sky above the river. The larger female hunts methodically while the smaller male plays in the wind. They call repeatedly to each other with a loud "kee-yer". Avid in flight, they even mate in the air.

My "fenced" wildflower patch has turned into a feeder. The roadrunner, puffed with cold, scratches for seeds beneath the hay mat. When I caught him at it, he looked at me for some moments: busted.

Where there is color, it blasts the eye. Cardinals and goldfinches hang their crimson and buttery yellow in the branches. The Possumhaw is aflame with berries.

And so we stroll the edges, and smile at spots of color, for it is still "far to the gates of April."

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. Lucy and Andy are members of the Hill Country Master Naturalist Chapter Class of 2013.

Comments are welcome at oodie1950@gmail.com.

Advanced Training

THURSDAY, FEB. 20 12-1PM CoCoRAHS WEBINAR

AT 14-022 LIFE AS A CLIMATOLOGIST

Ryan Bowles of North Carolina State University will tell about about the life of a climatologist. For more information, go to <http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=wxtalk> .

MONDAY, FEB. 24 7-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY (UGRA)

AT 14-036 HUMMINGBIRDS OF TEXAS

Mark Klym, biologist with the Wildlife Diversity Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and coordinator of Texas Hummingbird Roundup as well as the Texas Whooper Watch and Texas Wildscapes, will be our speaker. He will introduce us to the species we're most likely to see, the plants they prefer, and the role of citizen scientists in feeding and monitoring hummingbirds.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25 8AM-4PM HALLETTSVILLE, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, 321 U.S. 77 SOUTH

AT 14-127 TEXAS RIPARIAN & STREAM ECOSYSTEM WORKSHOP - LAVACA RIVER BASIN

This training will focus on the nature and function of stream and riparian zones along with the benefits and direct impact of healthy riparian zones. For more information, including an agenda, go to <http://twri.tamu.edu> .

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 8-9 9AM-5PM GEORGETOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY, 402 W. 8TH STREET

AT 14-024 LITHICS: READING STONE ARTIFACTS

This Texas Archeological Society Academy will present Dr. Harry Schaefer, TAMU Professor Emeritus, and Chris Ringstaff, archeologist at Texas Department of Transportation, who will introduce the manufacture of stone tools by early people. Participants will engage in hands-on sorting, classifying, measuring, and recording sample artifacts. For more information, go to <http://www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2014/index.php> .

SATURDAY, MARCH 22 8:30AM-5PM PHIL HARBERGER PARK, 8400 NW MILITARY HWY., S.A.

AT 14-023 WILDLIFE TAX VALUATION WORKSHOP

This workshop in San Antonio will provide information for Texas landowners interested in a wildlife tax valuation for their property. Space is limited, so register in advance; walk-in registrants accept only if space is available. Contact Matt Reidy at 830-569-3358 or go to matthew.reidy@tpwd.texas.gov .

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 5-6 9AM-5PM FORT CONCHO HISTORICAL LANDMARK, SAN ANGELO

AT 14-021 GEOARCHEOLOGY

This Texas Archeology Society Academy will provide instruction, laboratory exercises, and field trips focused on how geological and soil formation processes affect archeological sites. For more information, go to <http://www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2014/index.php> .

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
- Sarah Hilburn -- Secretary
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- Bob Wiedenfeld -- Communications Director
- Becky Etzler -- Membership Director
- Stephen Bishop -- Volunteer Service Projects Director
- 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

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.



Questions about our chapter?
Email Becky Etzler,
Membership Director
hillcountrymasternaturalist@gmail.com

