

# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the  
Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter

January 2015

Volume 13

Number 1

photo by Rebecca Flack



## JANUARY MEETING: LOVE CREEK PRESERVE

Rebecca Flack, Western Rivers Project Director for The Nature Conservancy in Texas, and Bob McKinley, Texas Master Naturalist and Love Creek Volunteer, will speak about the Preserve in western Bandera County, which is stewarded by The Nature Conservancy.

Everyone is welcome to join us on Monday, January 26, 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 . . . . Kathy Ward

Happy 2015 to all Hill Country Master Naturalists!

I hope everyone was refreshed during the holidays and is already continuing the amazing volunteer work you all contributed during 2014. I was privileged to watch Vern Crawford, Becky Etzler, and Sandy Leyendecker compile volunteer hours and projects for the 2014 State Report that showed we broke our past records in number of volunteer hours and projects. Outstanding were: Ron Hood completing 10,000 volunteer hours, Gracie Waggener and Glenn Randow each completing 4000 hours to receive President's awards, and Kip Kiphart receiving the US Forest Service "Wings Across the Americas 2014 Conservation Award".

On January 10 we had a combined old and new Board retreat at Camp CAMP to plan for 2015. Many thanks for superb jobs go to those on the 2014 Board who are retiring: Stephen Bishop, Rod Boertje, Becky Etzler, Donna Oliver-Leap, and Priscilla Stanley; also, to Secretary Sarah Hilburn, Treasurer Diane McMahon, and Communications Director Bob Wiedenfeld, who are remaining in the same positions. Thanks also to those taking up new positions: Vern Crawford as Immediate Past President, Lisa Flanagan as Membership Director, and Liz Ross as Advanced Training Director. New additions to the 2015 Board are Brenda Fest as 2015 Class Director, Judy Gausnell as 2014 Class Representative, Bridget Langdale as Edwards Plateau Representative, Pat McCormick as Volunteer Project Director, and Paul Person as Vice President. Board meetings are on the Wednesday before each monthly chapter meeting at Riverside Nature Center from 1:30-3:30 and are open to everyone. Please join us sometime this year.

People deserving special thanks are our hard working Webmaster Kristie Denbow, our wonderful Newsletter Editor Lenore Langsdorf, our remarkable Data Base Manager Sandy Leyendecker, and our faithful Advisors Michelle Haggerty and Roy Walston.

Our festive Holiday Party was successful, thanks to our congenial members. John Huecksteadt provided an excellent tour of the Fredericksburg Nature Center Trail. Members brought delicious appetizers and desserts. Lisa Flanagan donated the opportunity for an airplane ride for two that Daneshu Clarke was happy to win.

This is such an outstanding organization. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve you as 2014 Vice President and thank you for the opportunity to be 2015 President. I look forward to seeing you at the January 26 Chapter Meeting where we will learn about Love Creek Preserve from our own Master Naturalists, Rebecca Flack and Bob McKinley.

Kathy Ward

## This Month We Honor

### Initial Certification

Peggy Crate, Nina Stieler, Mary Lee Stewart, Kay Tally-Foos (Class of 2013)  
Chris Anderson, Eva Broad, Lee Burton, Pam McKinley, Mary Thomas (Class of 2014)

### Special Certification

Kris Bobbitt, Audrey Hamel, Andy Robinson, Nina Stieler, Mary Lee Stewart (Class of 2013)  
Rose Ellis, Gary Fest, Chris Keating, Bridget Langdale (Class of 2014)

### 2014 Recertification

Phillip Brush, Cynthia Burgin, Jim Burgin, Anne Cassidy, Gloria Costello, Steve Dodge,  
Barb Herbst, Merrily Lebarthe, Susan Longacre, Barbara Lowenthal,  
Katherine Peake, Joe von Rosenberg, Nina Wagner



### Milestones

Jim Jones and Nancy Person - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours

Linda Ross, Cay Russ, and John Walker - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours

Jim Clarke - Gold Dragonfly, 1000 hours

Stephen Bishop, Tom Hynes, and Tom Riordan - Polished Silver Dragonfly, 2500 hours



*Congratulations to members who received awards at the November meeting.*

Left to right, back row: Ken Weber, Chris Keating, Gary Fest, Lisa Flanagan, Kris Bobbitt, Charles Smith  
Middle row: Brenda Fest, Rose Ellis, Leanne Beauxbeannes, Carla Brady, Liz Ross, Pat McCormick  
Front row: Bridget Langdale, Sharron Jay, Koy Coffey, Pattie Boertje

Local woman earns honor from White House  
Kerrville resident known for imparting knowledge, love of nature to kids

By Sean Batura, Staff Writer (sean.batura@dailytimes.com)

In 2007, Gracie Waggener found that working fewer hours as a decorator was putting her on the couch more and more, so she did something about it. She began to devote her free time to teaching kids about nature and preserving wildlife.

Now, seven years later, the White House has honored her for the time she's spent volunteering as a master naturalist and member of organizations such as the Texas Wildlife Association and the Native Plant Society of Texas. Waggener received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for volunteering more than 4,000 hours.



photo by Cathy Downs

Comfort resident Cathy Downs, a longtime member of the same organizations, said perhaps only 12 people out of the state's 49 local Texas Master Naturalist chapters have received the award. "She's our go-to girl for creative kids' activities," Downs said of Waggener. "She's also our go-to person for anything we have to decorate — master naturalist functions or Christmas parties, ceremonies— she takes care of all that for us."

From volunteering at butterfly gardens at the Fredericksburg Nature Center and Kerrville Schreiner Park to helping kids create reptiles out of household materials, Waggener has by all accounts exhibited both substance and style. "She is a backbone to our program," said Harper resident Becky Etzler, who trained as a master naturalist three years ago and met Waggener at that time. "Gracie is a very unassuming, quiet woman, but she is a workforce just to herself. If something needs to be done, you can count on Gracie to get it done quietly and unobtrusively, and it just works out beautifully."

Joining education- and wild-life-related organizations seemed to be the natural choice for Waggener. Her dad was a teacher who passed along his enjoyment of the outdoors, and her mother, also a teacher, imparted a love for plants and wildflowers. Waggener acquired a taste for volunteering while her sons were in the Boy Scouts. Both of her sons still live in Texas; one does computer-related work for Southwest Airlines and the other creates custom woodwork. Waggener grew up in Kingsville, attended Texas A&I University — now Texas A&M Kingsville — and moved to Kerrville in 1998 with her husband to take care of her mother's home.

Waggener's peers hailed her ability to impart knowledge to kids while entertaining them. Waggener said she likes reaching kids who may spend too much time indoors. "These kids are going to be voting on all our water rights and property rights and eminent domain rights, and if they don't know anything about where their water comes from, how are they going to be able to make those kinds of decisions?" Waggener said.

reprinted with permission from the Kerrville Daily Times (www.dailytimes.com).  
(published Jan. 2, 2015, pages 1A & 5A)

From Becky Etzler, 2014 Membership Director

The Hill Country Chapter would like to recognize one of our members, Ron Hood, for achieving the highest Texas Master Naturalist milestone award: 10,000 volunteer service hours.

Have you ever watched three million Mexican Freetail Bats fly over your head – many at 10 -15 feet ? Then have public visitors thank you for the experience. Have you ever felt the collision when a Zone-tailed Hawk took a White-winged Dove less than 10 feet from you? Observed over 50 hummingbirds fight over your feeders? Had the satisfaction of leading your friends on a bird survey? These are just a few of the experiences that Ron has had over the last 10 years. He first learned of the Texas Master Naturalists in 2002 and took the training for the Hill Country Chapter in 2003. Ron states that this was one of the best decisions he has ever made. It led to many great experiences that continue today.

Thank you, Ron, for your exceptional dedication. You are an example to us all.



Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist Program Coordinator, presented the award to Ron Hood at the November chapter meeting.

From Dana Wilson, North Texas Master Naturalists

Earlier this year, Wichita Falls - under stage 5 drought restrictions - made national news by going online with wastewater recycling as a resource to supplement municipal drinking water supplies. With continued hot and dry conditions over much of the west and southwest, water recycling is becoming an increasingly valuable tool to guarantee a safe municipal water supply. Texas Conservation Alliance has created a 5-minute video about the benefits of water recycling.

Go to to <http://www.tcatexas.org/alliance-connections/water-recycling/> for the video.

### Texas Communities Encouraged to Apply for Prestigious Statewide Award

Is your community making strides in areas such as litter prevention, beautification or waste reduction? Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) is excited to kick off its 2015 awards season and we invite you to take part! All Texas communities are eligible to apply for the Governor's Community Achievement Award (GCAA), and the ten winning communities will share \$2 million in landscaping awards. Want to learn more about the application process? Awards training is available to help you through the process whether you're a first-time applicant or you just need a refresher. Topics include tips and tools for writing award applications, understanding the judging process, and how to effectively organize and present your community's award application. To sign up for an awards training, Register here. Applications are due February 3, 2015; view the application here.

The Governor's Community Achievement Awards (GCAA) is a program managed by Keep Texas Beautiful and funded by the Texas Department of Transportation.

## RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER

150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville

**\*\* RSVP to 257-4837 \*\***

[www.riversidenaturecenter.org](http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org) ∞ [RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com)

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, Thursday, Jan. 22, 4:30-6 p.m.

Induction of new and returning 100 Hours Club member, with a party to celebrate the many, many hours of volunteerism at Riverside in 2014. Volunteers are invited to bring one guest.

Town Creek Cleanup Team, Saturday, Jan. 24, 9 a.m. to about noon.

Join Tim Lewis and the intrepid cleanup team for a quarterly sweep from the confluence of Town Creek and the Guadalupe to the Schreiner Street Bridge. Pay is in camaraderie and the satisfaction of a job well done. Contact Tim Lewis, [timlewis10@windstream.net](mailto:timlewis10@windstream.net), for details or to sign up.

Nature Detective: Fossils, Saturday, Jan. 24, 1-2:30 p.m.

This is an afternoon of CSI-style detective work for 3rd-6th graders. RNC Naturalist Susan Sander and assistant Craig McCain present the study of fossils. Young detectives leave with a finished project and a smile. Cost is \$5 for children of RNC members; \$8 nonmembers. NOTE: January is the final program.

"Hill Country ROCKS," Exhibit Opening, Friday, Jan. 30, 4:30-6 p.m.

ROCKS—it's all about the geology of our part of the Texas Hill Country. Tentatively scheduled to open on Jan. 30, this exhibit is dedicated to the memory of our charter and life member, geologist and RNC benefactor, William E. Laing.

RNC Grounds Beautification, Saturday, Jan. 31, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to join the various teams for cleanup and/or repair RNC grounds and buildings. Feel free to bring a favorite rake, pruning shears, and gloves.

## FEBRUARY & BEYOND EVENTS

Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop, Feb. 7, 21, and 28.

If you have agricultural tax valuation on your land and are interested in managing for wildlife, come to this seminar hosted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in partnership with RNC. The seminar is especially for owners with 20 or more acres and emphasizes wildlife management strategies that improve native habitat and increase species diversity. The presenters will help you gain land management knowledge, understand the history of this Texas law, and fulfill requirements to qualify for a wildlife management tax valuation. Many participants finish the seminar with a completed plan and are ready to apply. Session 1: Overview and Property Inventory; Session 2: Management Practices and Habitat Assessment, Session 3: WTV History and Update on the law and Application Procedures. Tuition: \$90 per person; \$110 per couple. For more info, [rnk.kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:rnk.kerrville@gmail.com) or call 830-257-4837.

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Details TBA.

RNC Grounds Beautification, Part 2, Saturday, Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to join the various teams for cleanup and/or repair grounds & buildings.

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, March 10, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Details TBA.

Native Healing Garden, Thursday, March 15, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

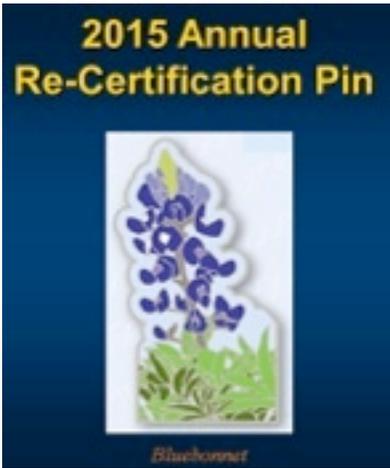
Join the herbalists to learn about native medicinal plants, and then tend the garden. Bring a healthy dish for the potluck. Led by certified herbalists Amy Coward, RN, and Sally Garrett, M.S. No charge to attend, but donations fund the garden.

RNC Grounds Beautification, Part 3, Saturday, March 21, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to join the various teams for cleanup and/or repair RNC grounds and buildings. Feel free to bring a favorite rake, pruning shears, and gloves.

Spring Native Plant Sale & Festival, Saturday, April 18, 2015, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This annual rite of spring offers a large selection of hand-picked native plants and trees for sale, free expert planting/tending advice, two workshops, vendors representing the area's nature-related organizations, kids' free activities, and more. No charge to attend.



### Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

11/7/2014	Watching Deer and Grass on the Nature Trail
11/14/2014	How Fast are We Losing Our Trees?
11/21/2014	What Makes the Leaves Change Color?
11/28/2014	Nature's Calendar
12/5/2014	It Has Been a Good Year for Grass
12/12/2014	More Views from Stops Along the Nature Trail
12/19/2014	Good Books about Nature and Texas for Winter Reading
12/26/2014	Aldo Leopold's Five Tools of Land Management

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

### Native Plant Society of Texas - Kerrville Chapter

On Tuesday, February 10 at 1:30 p.m., the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hear a presentation entitled "Water 101."

The presenter, Charlie Flatten, is the Hill Country Alliance Water Policy Program Manager. The Alliance is dedicated to the preservation of Hill Country resources. Charlie has a master's degree in resource management with a specialty in hydrology. He monitors water policy makers in Central Texas, manages the Alliance's educational output, and is an advocate for responsible growth and the sustainability of resources. His talk will focus on the future of water in the Hill Country and how to get involved in conservation.

The event will be at the Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville. Visitors are welcome. For more information, contact Barbara Stidham at 830-928-3202.

## Chasing Butterflies: Volunteers Count Winged Marvels in the Hill Country.

by Rob McCorkle

Deep azure skies greet 46 butterfly enthusiasts who gather on a June morning at a Medina coffee shop for a dose of caffeine and last-minute instructions before embarking on the fifth annual North American Butterfly Association (NABA) count at Love Creek. Rebecca Flack of the Nature Conservancy divides up the record number of volunteers into eight teams and sends them afield to scour the Bandera County countryside for the colorful winged insects.

Leading our six-person team is expert Richard Kostecke, the Nature Conservancy's associate director of conservation, research and planning. Amateurs and experts alike participating in the day's count are all part of NABA's standardized national event to discern trends in North American butterfly populations.

The national count, says Kostecke, is patterned after the long-running national Christmas Bird Count but pegged to a Fourth of July season that stretches from June 1 through July 31. NABA also accepts U.S. butterfly data from spring and fall seasonal counts.

Kostecke's team, composed of myself and two couples, heads for the 2,100-acre Love Creek Preserve in the Bandera Canyonlands west of Medina. The former private ranch represents one of the nation's most diverse habitats of spring-fed creeks, scenic mountains and steep canyons harboring remnant stands of bigtooth maples, Texas madrone, rare tobusch cacti and other native flora.

At the top of the first hill, Kostecke strides into a field of native grasses, low-growing shrubs and oaks, his binoculars scanning for butterflies just beginning to become active on a pleasantly cool summer morning. With a checklist and notepad in hand and a camera sporting a telephoto lens slung over his shoulder, the entomologist looks like a consummate professional. The rest of us neophytes follow behind, trying to spot what in most cases is a fluttering insect no bigger than a dime. Kostecke calls out the names of species he sees — Reakirt's blue, Gulf fritillary, dainty sulphur — tallying as he goes. "Love Creek counts typically result in an above-average individual count, but average for diversity," Kostecke says. "Out here, it's more art than science. The most important thing is consistency."

Our team spends most of the morning hiking along the rocky Love Creek bottomlands, where butterflies congregate to obtain moisture and to feed on the plentiful nectar plants. The checklist provided by noted butterfly expert Tom Collins begins to fill up: juniper hairstreak, red-spotted admiral, clouded skipper, dun skipper, zebra heliconias. I strain through binoculars to admire the dainty creatures' subtle spots and streaks on chalky powder-blue and yellow wings.

Overhead, a broad-winged hawk circles and a small flock of aoudad sheep glued precariously to a canyon wall look down before scampering up and over the precipice to the plateau high above. The count continues for another hour before we call it a day. We end the morning with a respectable 19 species and more than 200 individuals.

We point our sore feet toward our vehicles to head to the designated rendezvous spot — the Love Creek Apple Store in Medina. Other team leaders, who have returned from Medina Garden Nursery and nine private ranches, call out their species count for Collins to compile. The tally appears to have fallen just two shy of the 60-species goal, but several photographed, but yet unidentified, butterflies remain to be identified later.

A week later, an e-mail from Flack notes that the subsequent positive IDs do reveal three additional species, nudging the total count to a record-high 61 species. She also points out that the five-year combined total for the Love Creek count has hit 84 species, a figure that represents more than 10 percent of the total number of U.S. butterfly species.

In Texas, the Rio Grande Valley contains the greatest butterfly diversity — more than 300 different species. It's no wonder the three-county area is home to NABA's National Butterfly Center and Mission's Texas Butterfly Festival, held this year Nov. 1-4.

So grab a field guide, a good pair of binoculars and a camera and join a growing sport that one day may rival one of America's other favorite natural pastimes — birding.



Volunteers gathered to count butterflies as part of a national effort to track butterfly population trends. The group exceeded its goal of recording 60 species.

reprinted with permission from *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine, November 2014

From Martha Miesch

### Bees and Pollination at the Kroc Center Program



The fourth and fifth grade students learned that pollination is a critical element for at least 30% of the world's food supply. They shared what they knew about pollination with the first program presenter, Susan Kelsey. She then discussed the life cycle of the bee and the role each bee--larvae, drone, worker, and queen--plays in the hive. A collection of eggs stored in a box illustrated how small the eggs are and the process bees use to store and protect them.

Mary Hayes continued the discussion by explaining the negative impact that verola mites have had on hives and bee survival. Mason bees are resisting the devastation of mites; thus this particular species is important. She also discussed how chemical insecticides are devastating to bee colonies. To help spread the word about which chemicals should not be used because they kill bees, each student was given a page of information on detrimental chemicals.



Debbie Windham, an accomplished bee keeper, gave her portion of the program in her bee protection suit. She also brought a section of the hive she maintains at home to protect bees and harvest honey. Master Naturalists Julie Clay, Susan McKinley, Martha Miesch, John Sloan, and Mary Frances Watson assisted in presenting this program.

# WELCOME

Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend and contribute to Board of Directors meetings. The board meets on the Wednesdays prior to the monthly chapter meetings at 1:30 PM at Riverside Nature Center.

# Genuine Land Stewardship

by Steve Nelle

The topic of land stewardship has gained a great deal of public attention during recent years. This is a good trend since it helps focus greater awareness to the importance of how the land is treated, and the people who carry out responsible land care.

However, land stewardship to some extent, has become a catchphrase; feel-good words; frequently used but seldom clearly defined. In some ways, land stewardship is becoming an over-used slogan; thus the need to clarify its true meaning and character.

Genuine land stewardship may be defined as a deeply held inner conviction that motivates landowners and land managers to care for the land. It is the ethic that generates, inspires and guides responsible and sustainable land management. Land stewardship is about who you are on the inside.

The essence of genuine stewardship is the acknowledgement that even though you may legally own title to the land, your role is that of caretaker. The well-being of the land is entrusted to you for a time and you will do your utmost to be a responsible custodian during your tenure. In addition to the personal benefits of land stewardship, genuine stewardship also involves benefits to future generations and benefits to society. Conservation easements are one important tool to help insure these benefits.

Aldo Leopold described an ecological conscience which produces a conviction of responsibility for the health of the land. The land steward has a keen and sensitive conscience toward the land. Their rights as a landowner are subordinated to their self-imposed responsibilities toward the land. Land stewards have a special working relationship to the land which is demonstrated by several qualities:

**Knowledge** - Land stewards have a working knowledge of the land, including the soil, water, plant and animals. Land stewards may be self taught, or educated, but they are always searching to better comprehend how the land works.

**Dedication** - Land stewards are strongly committed to the health of the land. It is a full time lifestyle, not a pastime.

**Big Picture** - land stewards are able to look down the road and consider the long term, wide angle perspective. They look to solve land problems, not merely treat symptoms. They see how their decisions affect other lands and other people.

**Realistic** - land stewards realize they are working with Nature and therefore do not call all of the shots. They do not try to artificially "improve" the land beyond what its natural capabilities are. They do not look for quick fixes or simple solutions.

**Humility** - There is a deep inner humility and reverence associated with authentic land stewardship.

Land stewardship is not a warm fuzzy emotion and is not merely a proclamation of how much we love the land. Genuine stewardship manifests itself in concrete skills, abilities and workmanship. Let us all strive to embody the very best stewardship character in ourselves and encourage it within others.

reprinted with permission from The Hill Country Land Trust newsletter, Fall/Winter 2014

## The View from Rusty Bend



Image by Lucy Griffith Copyright 2014

When I am among the trees...  
they give off such hints of gladness.  
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,  
in which I have goodness, and discernment,  
and never hurry through the world  
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves  
and call out, "Stay awhile."  
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,  
"and you too have come  
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled  
with light, and to shine."

-Mary Oliver

Autumn at Rusty Bend. Nature lifts her long skirts a bit. Leaves of lemon-lime divulge where the Elbow Bush hides in the oak motte. Escarpment Cherry, with its flaming canary yellow plumage, is startling in the canyons.

As I walk the pasture, each thicket hides a secret: an ancient blue bottle, a tiny fawn's skeleton inside a hollow tree, tangled farm machinery, a Wafer Hop tree. I can see the warring wrens, squabbling among the bare branches. The Carolina Wren pumps his tail with his whole body, as if cocking a gun, then explodes from his perch. The Canyon Wren comes bob, bob, bobbing along. Towhees, both Spotted and Canyon, dance in the dirt.

Heavy ground fogs also tease us with their mysteries. A silver blanket floats just above the river, coppery cypress tops nestled in the folds. Orangey red Texas Ash flash in the sunlight. Turkeys gobble below, feasting on a fall harvest of pecans.

Up above, the sky is alive as well. We see kettles of hawks drifting. Fifty, sixty at a time, swirling around an invisible cone, catching a warm rise of air; hitching a ride south. One foggy night, we lie in bed and listen. Minute after minute, the melancholy bugles of Sandhill Cranes fill the air as they fly above the house. They sound close enough to touch. A mythic lullaby.

Whitetail bucks are busy looking for females to court. With the sun rising behind him, I watch one buck reaching back to scratch around his tail. He scrubs at it quite a while, then shakes all over, again and again, like a puppy. I can see his whiskers in the sun. He spots a big doe, he licks his lips.

With less cover for his prey, a Merlin is busy. From the corner of my eye, I see one flare and grab a titmouse. An instant of drama, then gone. Did that really happen? A tiny gray feather spins to earth. Mute testament.

But the trees, the trees, are the thing this time of year. Launching invitations as they change each day, as if to say: come out and see what I'm up to. What color am I now? This leaf is as big as your face. Did that wind last night strip me bare? Watch this piece of color twirl to earth. Look, I put a cinnamon carpet on the river.

Autumn is a great big hug. Walk out gently. Receive.

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 welcome at [oodie1950@gmail.com](mailto:oodie1950@gmail.com).

## Advanced Training

### **TUESDAY, JAN. 20 1-2 PM WEBINAR**

AT 15-011 SELLING CONSERVATION: LESSONS LEARNED

Participate to understand how to sell conservation in the agricultural community by systematically incorporating social science principles and methods into building and delivering decision support tools such as adaptation to climate change and improving water quality. The presenter is Dr. Linda Stalker Prokopy; the sponsoring organization is USDA/NRCS. Go to <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>.

### **THURSDAY, JAN. 22 AND JAN. 29 6:30-8:30PM GILLESPIE AGRILIFE OFFICE, FREDERICKSBURG**

AT 15-001A, B DRIP IRRIGATION

The class (presented twice, on consecutive Thursdays) will include discussion of specific solutions for different environments. There will be examples of hands-on drip solutions. For further information, contact the presenter, Pat McCormick, [patddmcc@yahoo.com](mailto:patddmcc@yahoo.com).

### **MONDAY, JAN. 26 6:30-9PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE**

AT 15-007 LOVE CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

Rebecca Flack, The Nature Conservancy's Southern Hill Country Project Director and Bob McKinley, a member of the Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter will explain the history and significance of the Love Creek Preserve at our monthly meeting. Love Creek Preserve in western Bandera County is owned and stewarded by The Nature Conservancy.

### **TUESDAY, JAN. 27 1-2PM WEBINAR**

AT 15-013 CONSERVATION BIOLOGICAL CONTROL: HABITAT MANAGEMENT TO CONTROL PESTS

This webinar focuses on the ecology of native beneficial insects: how to recognize them and to evaluate, design, and improve habitat for them in order to increase their numbers. The Presenter: is Eric Lee-Mader, Pollinator Program Co-Director, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation; the sponsoring organization is USDA/NRCS Science & Technology. Go to <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>.

### **TUESDAY, JAN. 27 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG**

AT 15-024 HUMMINGBIRD COURTSHIP

Because of their tiny size and high speed flying capability, birders rarely get to witness the courtship show of hummingbirds. Their brief ritual can be an unforgettable moment for birders. The presenter is Bill Lindemann; the sponsoring organization is the Fredericksburg Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas, and the address is 607 North Milam Street in Fredericksburg.

### **TUESDAY, FEB. 3 6:30-8PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND FARM AUDITORIUM (CNC), BOERNE**

AT 15-015 VIRTUAL HERBARIUM & COMPILING TAXONOMIC DATA

Paul Pena will speak about how he developed a search engine to identify wildflowers. Barbara Lowenthal will discuss the resources she used to compile the taxonomic descriptions of plants for the Riverside Nature Center. With Ms. Lowenthal's descriptions and pictures donated by NPSOT and Texas Master Naturalists, Mr. Pena developed a database with a user-friendly interface that allows anyone to select characteristics they see in a plant to identify it. The sponsoring organization is the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

### **SATURDAY, FEB. 7, 21, 28 9AM-1PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE (RNC)**

AT 15-091 WILDLIFE TAX VALUATION WORKSHOP

This is a three-part seminar that is designed for owners of more than 20 acres. Rufus Stephens, Liz Bates, and other presenters will explain the history of this Texas law and how to fulfill the qualification requirement for a wildlife management tax valuation. Cost: for RNC members, \$90 person; \$110 per couple. For more information, call RNC, 830-257-4837.



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 2015***

- Kathy Ward -- President
- Paul Person -- Vice President
- Sarah Hilburn -- Secretary
- Diane McMahan -- Treasurer
- Liz Ross -- Advanced Training Director
- Bob Wiedenfeld -- Communications Director
- Lisa Flanagan -- Membership Director
- Pat McCormick -- Volunteer Service Projects Director
- Brenda Fest -- 2015 Class Director
- Judy Gausnell-- 2013 Class Representative
- Vern Crawford -- 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.



*Questions about our chapter?*

Email Lisa Flanagan,  
Membership Director  
[hillcountrymembership@gmail.com](mailto:hillcountrymembership@gmail.com)

