

# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the

Texas Master Naturalist

Hill Country Chapter

April 2015    Volume 13    Number 4



photo by Tyra Kane

T E X A S

Master  
Naturalist™



## APRIL 27 MEETING: FERAL HOGS--FROM EARLY INTRODUCTION TO CONTROL STRATEGIES

Josh Helcel, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service associate, will present a one hour program followed by an opportunity for questions and concerns regarding the impact of feral hogs. Everyone is welcome to join us on Monday, April 27, at 7 p.m. in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's lecture hall, 125 N. Lehman Drive in Kerrville. Arrive at 6:30 to chat with members and guests.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . . Kathy Ward

Hi!

Hope you have had a chance when it has not been raining to see the glorious displays of wildflowers along the highways and in parks and yards. Some of the native plants in my yard are more robust than they have been in years.

Now is the time to start encouraging friends to join the Hill Country Master Naturalist Chapter. The application for the 2015 training class is up on the website. Applications are due July 13.

Please save the date for our Annual Chapter Picnic on May 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lyndon B. Johnson State Park & Historic Site, 199 Park Road 52 in Stonewall.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the April 27 Meeting.

Kathy Ward



## This Month We Honor



### Initial Certification

Judy Gausnell

### Special Recertification

Judy Gausnell, Susan McKinley

### 2015 Recertification

Dale Bransford, Julie Clay, Ginny DeWolf, Ann Dietert, Cynthia Johnson, Sandra Magee, Diane McMahon, Lars Nielsen, Donna E Oliver-Leep, Nancy Person, Paul Person, Tara Randle, Floyd Trefny, Karla Trefny, Evelyn Vittone, Russell Vowell, John Walker, Bob Wiedenfeld, Morgan Williams

### Milestones

Ann Schneider and Russell Vowell - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours

Glenn Randow - Diamond Dragonfly, 5000 hours



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

From left to right: Kathy Ward, Marion Worthington, Brenda Fest, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley, Sandy Leyendecker, Daneshu Clarke, Rheda Boardman, Paul Person

### Invitation to 2015 Master Naturalist Training

Life changing. . . When my husband Gary and I first met with our Hill Country Master Naturalist mentor, Floyd Trefny, that was what he said. We listened with interest to his helpful information about our upcoming fall training to become Master Naturalists. I remember thinking “Boy this sounds great, but I can’t imagine why it would be ‘life changing.’” As a recently retired science educator I thought that I was pretty well informed on some of the topics included in the training. Little did I know that the training would involve not just lectures on various topics like ecological concepts, land management, botany, soils, geology, but it would also create an atmosphere of excitement, wonder, and camaraderie with my fellow classmates that would motivate me to go beyond the reading assignments and lectures.



As the weeks passed I looked forward to each week, eager to learn more about the natural beauty of the Hill Country and how I could actually play a role in preserving it. The field trips allowed us to actually experience natural areas and learn how these areas have succeeded in maintaining their beauty and, in some cases, have been transformed with the help of Master Naturalist volunteers.

As the training progressed I became fascinated with how much I was unaware of and all of the opportunities to become a knowledgeable volunteer. Until recently my career and family did not allow me time to be a volunteer so I wasn’t even sure what it would be like. So before training was over, my husband and I checked out some of the volunteer opportunities available to us.

I was amazed. We were welcomed with open arms, in spite of our lack of knowledge in the specifics of what we were doing. We participated in butterfly and bird surveys even though at the time we only knew a couple of bird and butterfly species. There was always something to learn and something to contribute. I was excited to meet such a wonderful network of knowledgeable, helpful, and thoughtful folks. We tried other volunteer opportunities. Each time we came away with a feeling of gratitude for what we learned and a sense of accomplishment for contributing something to a good cause. We were hooked.



When the classes ended I have to admit that it was bittersweet commencement day. I was sad because I would not see my 2014 classmates on a regular basis but happy because I had so many wonderful volunteer opportunities and learning experiences ahead of me.



Even though we have lived on our property in Bandera County for eleven years we finally feel like we really belong and have a place in our community. We are Hill Country Master Naturalists. We can make a difference and will. Yes, Floyd, it was LIFE CHANGING.

Do you know people who live in our ten county area who would benefit from the HCMN Fall training program? If so, tell them about your experience and advise them to contact Lisa Flanagan, our Membership Director ([hillcountrymembership@gmail.com](mailto:hillcountrymembership@gmail.com)), or go to the “Become a Master Naturalist” portion of the HCMN website. The deadline for applications is July 13 and training classes will be on Wednesday mornings from August 19 – November 11.

## Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

- 3/6/2015      Where Can We Get More Water?  
3/13/2015     What is the Most Valuable Part of Your Land?  
3/20/2015     Surviving the Winter When You Only Weigh Half an Once  
3/27/2015     In Defense of Prickly Pear  
4/3/2015      Other Less-Than-Favorite Native Plants

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

## How-to From the Webmaster

Kristie Denbow

There's a form for that. Information and requests are a click away with our handy forms. Find forms for changing your address, submitting AT and new projects, scheduling an LMAP visit, and more. Some forms, like our class application, are seasonal. All forms are listed on <http://txmn.org/hillcountry/all-forms/>, plus each form can be found under its associated topic. It's easy to find a form!

Check the website often for news, info, education, and fun.

## Native Plant Society of Texas-Boerne Chapter: May Meeting

### Soil Science

On Tuesday, May 5, David Vaughan, certified arborist, will present a program on soil: what is there and how to care for it at our monthly meeting, which is held at the Cibolo Nature Center and Farm.

It takes a village to nurture a tree, a village of soil microbes. What we call soil is home to a vibrant community of bacterial, nematodes, protozoa, and micro-arthropods. Trees and soil microbes are interdependent. By knowing more about physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil, the arborist is better equipped to manage trees in the urban environment. The history of every nation is eventually written in the way in which it cares for its soil. For more information about the chapter or the meeting, go to our website, <http://npsot.org/wp/boerne>.

## Native Plant Society of Texas-Kerrville Chapter: Field Trip and May Meeting

On Saturday, May 9, at 9:00 a.m. the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) will take a field trip to a private property in Gillespie County, where they will identify emerging spring plants. Those who wish to car pool should be at Riverside Nature Center (150 Francisco Lemos Street in Kerrville) at 9:00 a.m. We will leave the Nature Center at 9:15 and arrive at the site around 9:45 a.m. Driving directions will be provided for those who do not wish to car pool. Participants should bring water, sun screen, hat, and (if needed) walking stick. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Restaurants are available in Fredericksburg for lunch following the field trip.

On Tuesday, May 12, at 1:30 p.m., the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) will tour the NPSOT gardens on the grounds of the Riverside Nature Center. Visitors are welcome. NPSOT volunteers will present the program. Volunteer Marion Worthington will present the composting project. Naturalist Susan Sander will present the Riverscape project.

For more information contact Barbara Stidham at 830-928-3202. For more information about the Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, please go to our web site: <https://npsot.org/wp/kerrville/> .

## Native Plant Society of Texas-Fredricksburg Chapter: April Meeting

### Restoring Healthy Creeks in The Hill Country

On Tuesday, April 28, 2015, the Native Plant Society of Texas Fredericksburg Chapter will present a program by Steve Nelle, a private freelance conservation and wildlife management services consultant.

The meeting will begin with a social gathering at 6:30 p.m., followed by the program at 7:00 p.m., in the fellowship hall of Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam Street, Fredericksburg. The meeting is open to the public, and there is no charge to attend.

Steve Nelle is retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service where his career spanned 28 years as a range conservationist, district conservationist, wildlife biologist, and zone biologist. Steve often engages as an advisor, teacher and leader in spreading riparian understanding. As he points out, "Texans love their creeks and rivers, but until recently most people have never stopped to think about how this complex part of the landscape works."

Learn what constitutes a healthy creek and why a functional riparian area is critical. Learn how a healthy riparian area helps to store water and sustain creek flow during dry times. Learn how strong riparian vegetation reduces flood damage and promotes the recharge of shallow aquifers. Learn the natural process of riparian recovery.

The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote the conservation, research, and utilization of the native plants and plant habitats of Texas, through education, outreach, and example.

For more information on this program and the Native Plant Society of Texas, please contact Kathy Lyles, Fredericksburg Chapter vice-president, at 830-997-0724.

## Big Springs Field Trip



Several naturalists carpooled from Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville to Big Springs Ranch, north of Leakey, on March 11 for an **exploratory** geological field trip. This large ranch abuts Lost Maples State Park to the east. It's owned by Hill Country Youth Ranch and serves as a home community that includes schools, a chapel, and sports fields. It's also a working ranch, engaged in land management.

Geologist Susan Longacre and naturalist Susan Sander, along with biologist Tony Gallucci, led the group across the creek and along the canyon through fossil beds. Birding and viewing the springs feeding the clear creek, which flows into the Frio River, were highlights of the 3.5 hour walk.



The springs cascade through a cut that is thought to delineate a fracture zone where the Glen Rose and Edwards strata collide. Nearby are thousands of small rocks containing a variety of plant and animal fossils.

In spite of care, three hikers slipped and fell into the creek during the crossing. But troopers that they are, none complained and all continued the hike, whether feet were wet or dry. We noted a variety of rare grasses and even orchids growing in the seeps.



The Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter annual picnic will be on Saturday, May 16, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., at the LBJ State Park Dining Hall / Picnic area on Ranch Road 1, past Stonewall, off of HYW 290 East. The Sauer Beckmann Living History Farm tours are available at no cost to the public all day during our picnic event. Tours of the LBJ home, which is a National Park, are also available for \$3 per person.

The picnic will be a potluck event, so please bring your favorite picnic dish and whatever you would like to drink, and join us on the banks of the Pedernales River for food, bocce ball, horseshoes, fishing, and fellowship with our group. If you would like additional information regarding the two available tours, go to <http://www.visitfredericksburgtx.com/attractions-activities/sauer-beckmann-living-history-farm---ljb-state-historical-park/> and <http://www.nps.gov/lyjo/planyourvisit/visitljbbranch.htm>.

If you have questions, or if you would like to help with this event, please contact Paul Person at 210-275-4522 or email [pkperson@live.com](mailto:pkperson@live.com).

From Martha Miesch

### Archeology at the Kroc Center

Dr. Steve Stoutamire, a geologist and member of the Hill Country Archeological Society, introduced the 4th and 5th graders during spring break week to the subject of archeology by asking them for personal definitions of the subject. Eager hands went up to give their contributions. To spark their interest he told them he would tell them some important facts that few of their friends would know; he had their attention.



He showed pictures of some of the mammals who lived in the part of the land we now call home such as mastodons and lions, as well as buffalo, which Native Americans hunted for food. Hearing of creatures taller than the high-ceilinged room they were sitting in had some students looking up in amazement. Then he showed them some beautiful replicas of tools American Indians made for hunting prior to the use of bow and arrows. Important caves like the Bear Creek Cave and a valuable cave on private land that is open to archeological scientists fascinated the students, who looked at cave art drawings with images of primitive hunters. Skeletons, bones, and even a mummy

have been found in one of the caves and many artifacts have been placed in a special museum to preserve this important history.

The students lined up eagerly to go outside to a field on the side of the building, where they took turns throwing the atlatl before the program ended. Many questions were asked, answered, and no doubt facts were shared with friends and family later.

Master Naturalists Julie Clay, Martha Miesch, John Sloan, and Mary Thomas assisted in the presentation.



## 2015 Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Training



*Conroe, in Montgomery County, is a great place to see insects like this long-tailed skipper.*

This year's Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist (MVES) training class will be held at the Tom Leroy Education Center located at the Montgomery County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office, Conroe, from September 28-October 2. Dr. Paul Nester will be this year's host and is currently developing the 2015 agenda. The last time training was offered in Conroe was in 2009, and the venue was outstanding. Registration for the class is now open for those who are presently Master Gardeners or Master Naturalists. Registration is limited; go to <http://agrilife.org/insectspecialist/2015/03/27/2015-registration-information-for-mves-training> or Dr. Paul Nester, [PNester@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:PNester@ag.tamu.edu); 832-265-5639.

## Hill Country Land Trust Conserves Sandy Ranch in Blanco County



HCLT recently worked with a landowner to conserve a 201 acre ranch in Blanco County, bringing the total of HCLT conserved acres in the Hill Country to just over 5,900.

The property, located near the historic community of Sandy north of Johnson City, has been used for grazing and farming since the 1800s. The owners' intent is to maintain the property as native rangeland for wildlife and livestock.

The ranch contains portions of Hickory Creek, an important tributary of the Pedernales River and watering source for untold numbers of wildlife. HCLT recognizes the unique value of our Hill Country rivers and streams, and has prioritized the protection of those resources—particularly, within the Pedernales River basin. The Pedernales River is an important water resource for the entire region through its connection to the Highland Lakes.

"As the Hill Country becomes more and more fragmented, it is more important than ever to partner with landowners willing to place a conservation easement on their property. This commitment shows true land stewardship in every sense of the word, protecting habitat, water resources, and scenic beauty for the benefit of all," says HCLT President, Mike Krueger. "But even more exciting to us, the owner consolidated two properties in this easement which now may never be subdivided, reversing that fragmentation trend."

Join us in celebrating this conservation victory!  
<http://www.hillcountrylandtrust.org>



## ADDRESSING CONFLICT WITH DEER IN OUR COMMUNITIES

AN INTERACTIVE AND ENGAGING WORKSHOP

May 29, 2015

Texas State University

LBJ Student Center Ballroom

109 Student Center Drive. San Marcos, 78666

White-tailed deer are a valuable natural resource enjoyed by many across Texas. However, when deer numbers escalate and they become overabundant, deer can threaten wildlife and plant diversity and cause emotionally charged conflict within communities. There are very real economic, cultural, health, and ecological concerns. Texas communities regularly confront these issues. This workshop will allow attendees to learn from the experiences of others and hear from nationally recognized experts currently working with overabundant deer issues.



Residents and Community leaders will learn practical solutions  
to address wildlife conflict

Friday, May 29, 2015 – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Why do deer thrive in our communities?

Evaluating your current situation. How bad is the problem?

How to build support for potential solutions

Real world case studies: What worked and what hasn't?

Management tools and solutions

Details available soon at [www.texas-wildlife.org](http://www.texas-wildlife.org)





# Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

## Voluntary Wildlife Habitat Restoration on Private Lands



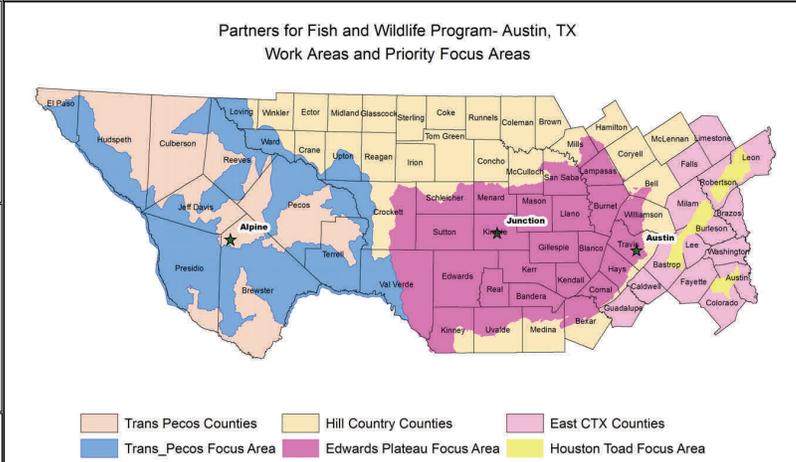
### Ecological Services Field Office-Austin, Texas

**What is Partners for Fish and Wildlife?**  
 The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore or enhance fish and wildlife habitats for Federal trust species.

**Who are the Partners?**  
 Anyone can be a partner. We work with ranchers, city dwellers, local agencies, private organizations, corporations, educational institutions, state governments and anyone interested in the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.

**Why is the Partners Program Important?**  
 About 95% of Texas is privately owned and contains some of the most important fish and wildlife habitat in Texas. Together, we can restore and protect wildlife habitat and contribute to the health of the land and the quality of life of the people living on it.  
 The key is partnerships! Working together to meet local needs, address issues, and take advantage of local opportunities.

**What are some examples of activities that the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program will fund?**  
 Our program will fund and offer technical assistance to landowners that restore or improve habitat for migratory birds, threatened, endangered and candidate species in our focus areas. Some activities include brush management, prescribed burning, grassland restoration and replanting native vegetation. In addition, our program works with local schools to assist with outdoor classrooms.



We have an open enrollment process, so all you need to do to get started is contact one of our biologists (below) and schedule a site visit.

**Contact Information:**  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program  
 10711 Burnet Rd, Suite 200  
 Austin, TX 78758

**Chris Harper**  
 Office: 512-490-0057 X245  
 Cell: 512-363-6862  
 chris\_harper@fws.gov

**Douglas Phillips**  
 Office: 512-490-0057 X244  
 Cell: 512-200-6104  
 douglas\_phillips@fws.gov



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*sunbreak in spring*

*Suddenly I realize*

*That if I stepped out of my body I would break*

*Into blossom.*

*James Wright*

The marching band called spring is coursing through Rusty Bend. Cypress needles troop up each limb, a line of lime soldiers treading toward the sky. Leaves of the Blackjack oak unfurl and wave their flags, announcing winter's retreat. If the cavalcade of spring had a drum major, it would be the Vermillion Flycatcher. He arrives early, clothed in redness, and poses high for all to see. Then, hawking for bugs in a stiff wind, he seems to hover in the hatch, a carmine dancer of the air.

Spring's sonata is trumpeted by Sandhill Cranes winding their way north. I listen to them pass overhead, with my fists deep in warm dirt, my gardening serenaded by their rolling cries.

Each dawn another layer of green has splashed the hills. The skeletal spaces of winter fill in each day with every imaginable color of the season: the khaki of the Live Oaks as they shed old growth, the spectacular Persian lime of the Cedar Elm that gets shinier with each passing day, the yellow green of the Texas Oaks that all seem to come out at once. Texas Persimmon starts gray and fuzzy, then landscapes the woods with chartreuse.

At ground level, the wildflower aptly named Scrambled Eggs sets the table for a springtime brunch. The lavender Prairie Verbena is next. We see the first one, then the next day they are everywhere. Agarita blossoms pulse with bees and perfume the wind. Bluebonnets have made it through the last freeze and thrive in the crushed granite walkway, weaving their delicate fragrance through the springtime air.

Our Texas Redbud greets us each day with its pinkness. Home to honey bees, bumblebees and butterflies, it's a tree that hums all day long. Our Redbud is also host to Henry's Elfin, a tiny butterfly that spends its entire life cycle on one species of tree. If I had to spend my entire lifetime in one small place, a Texas Redbud tree would surely do it for me.

Each morning we listen carefully. The opus deepens. Bird songs become more complex as courtship begins. Migrants return from parts south and new songs announce their arrival. Who is that I am hearing? A surprise of sounds each day. Bewick's wrens reclaim Andy's boots and manically fill them with loads of sticks and whatever is "to hand," as my father would say. We find pieces of ziplock ties in one wren's nest. On a river walk, I follow the ravens to their secret nest in the fork of a cypress tree. It's as wide as an armchair. We hang an owl box in a Cedar Elm and hope for new residents.



*Henry's Elfin butterfly on Texas Redbud*

When courtship wanes, the pace mellows. Solitary turkey hens wander by at all hours. Are they nesting close by? These girls seem oblivious to our comings and goings. It's all about the pill bugs, it seems. One morning, a female fox wanders into the yard, sauntering slowly. She finds a spot of sun, and curls up for a nap. Her satellite ears are vigilant but she rests for nearly an hour. We rest, too, as we watch her from the window. She is golden in the light.

Color, birdsong, fragrance, courtship. A symphony of spring; four parts in harmony.

Lucy Griffith, PhD co-manages the Rusty Bend Ranch with her husband, Andy Robinson. When she is not on a tractor named Ruby, she practices Clinical Psychology. When the tractor isn't running, Andy is fixing it or building something straight and true. Both Lucy and Andy are certified Master Naturalists from the Class of 2013. Comments welcome at [doctorluz@hctc.net](mailto:doctorluz@hctc.net). *Text and Images by Lucy Griffith Copyright 2015*

## Advanced Training

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 23 WEBINAR**

AT 15-099 ENHANCING EXISTING LANDSCAPES FOR MONARCH/NATIVE POLLINATORS

Topics include best management practices for augmenting natural habitats, roadsides, right-of-way areas and other landscapes, milkweed and nectar plant availability, including seed collection, plug production, and sourcing native plant and seed materials. Register now at <https://nctc.adobeconnect.com/e16la2e6ygh/event/registration.html> .

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 23 6-8PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND FARM, BOERNE**

AT 15-107 A THIRST FOR NATURE: MERLOT IN THE MEADOW

Rufus Stephens, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department District Leader, will discuss prairie health: fire, grazing, and the nurturing of birds and butterflies. Register now at <https://cibolo.org.presencehost.net/experience/events/calendar.html/event/2015/04/23/a-thirst-for-nature-merlot-in-the-meadow> .

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 23-FRIDAY, APRIL 24 INN OF THE HILLS RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER, KERRVILLE**

AT 15-053 SECOND ANNUAL BENNETT LAND STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE

The first day includes a presentation on the history of the Hill Country plants, animals, and early people found in the region, and discussions regarding the water cycle of the Hill Country and Edwards Plateau. The second day will consist of three tours. Cost: \$75, which includes all meals, break refreshments, and tour transportation costs. Register by going to <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/BennettTrust> or by calling 979-845-2604.

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 24-SUNDAY, APRIL 25 LADY BIRD JOHNSON PARK PAVILION, FREDERICKSBURG**

AT 15-079 FIFTH ANNUAL WINGS OVER THE HILLS NATURE FESTIVAL

For schedule and registration, go to <http://www.wingsoverthehills.org> .

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 25 9AM-12PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND FARM, BOERNE**

AT 15-110 BIRDING BY EAR

Join master birders Tom and Patsy Inglet to learn tips and tricks that will help you to identify birds by their songs and sounds. This workshop will introduce you to many of the common bird calls heard in the Hill Country and will include time in the field practicing bird call identification. Cost: CNC&F members \$20 per person; non-CNC&F members \$25 per person. For more information, call Cindy Glass at 830-249-4616 or go to [nature@cibolo.com](mailto:nature@cibolo.com). Participants are welcome to attend the Breeding Bird Point Counts taking place on May 6, 13 and 20; sign up with Donna Taylor at [donna@cibolo.org](mailto:donna@cibolo.org) .

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 25-SUNDAY APRIL 26 LAGRANGE RAIN HARVEST SCHOOL**

AT 15-105 The school is a unique learning facility offering "Design-Build" classes throughout the year for those who want hands-on, practical experience designing, building, and pricing both "dry" and "wet" rain harvest systems. The focus is on practicing building these systems so that you can go home and build your own system. For further information, go to <http://www.texaswatersavers.com/rainharvest-school/2015-classes/> .

### **MONDAY, APRIL 27 6:30PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY AUDITORIUM, KERRVILLE**

AT 15-102 FERAL HOGS

Josh Helcel, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service associate, will present a one hour program, followed by an opportunity for questions and concerns regarding the impact of feral hogs, at our monthly meeting.

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

AT 15-101 RESTORING HEALTHY CREEKS

Steve Nelle will speak on what constitutes a healthy creek and why a functional riparian area is critical for storing water and sustaining creek flow during dry times. Learn how strong riparian vegetation reduces flood damage and promotes the recharge of shallow aquifers at this monthly meeting of the Native Plant Society of Texas Fredericksburg Chapter. Free; visitors are welcome.

### **FRIDAY, MAY 1 10AM-12PM LOVE CREEK PRESERVE , MEDINA (FM 337 WEST)**

AT 15-111 LOVE CREEK PRESERVE FIELD TRIP

This 2200-acre preserve in western Bandera County often is referred to as the Bandera Canyonlands. It is a site of great biodiversity including many rare and endangered plants. We will have two separate tours to accommodate people with different abilities. Bring good hiking shoes, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, hiking poles, sack lunch, and plenty of water. Roberta Flack, the Preserve Manager, is the presenter. Free; donations appreciated. Advance reservations are required; contact Rheda Boardman at 713-504-6253 or [rhedaboardman@yahoo.com](mailto:rhedaboardman@yahoo.com) .

**SATURDAY, MAY 2 2-5PM LLANO RIVER FIELD STATION, TEXAS TECH CAMPUS, JUNCTION**  
**AT 15-093 TOUR OF THE LLANO RIVER FIELD STATION**

Find out what the Field Station is doing to conserve and preserve the flora and fauna of the Texas Hill Country and the Llano River. Learn about current and prior research projects, the Outdoor School, and the Alternative Energy System. Visit the Discovery Point Trail, the Native Plant Garden, and the riverside area; observe the results of a stream bank erosion prevention project. Free; for more information, contact Tony Plutino, 512-496-2020 or [tonyplutino@gmail.com](mailto:tonyplutino@gmail.com).

**SATURDAY, MAY 2 9AM-12PM NATIVE AMERICAN SEED COMPANY, JUNCTION**  
**AT 15-087 NATIVE AMERICAN SEED COMPANY TOUR**

Learn about the history and philosophy of NAS and how they locate seed sources and harvest, process, package, and sell them. Also, find out what products and services NAS offers for restoration, erosion control, and habitat improvement. Hear about other projects to conserve and preserve the Texas Hill Country. Presenters will be Bill, Jan, and Emily Neiman. Suggested donation \$35, which can be paid to NAS at the event. Seed and related products and supplies will be available for purchase at NAS. For more information, contact Tony Plutino, 512-496-2020 or [tonyplutino@gmail.com](mailto:tonyplutino@gmail.com).

**SATURDAY, MAY 2 9AM-4PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND FARM, BOERNE (CNC)**  
**AT 15-104 MONARCH BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, AND MONARCH LARVAL MONITORING PROJECT TRAINING**

This workshop will cover Monarch Biology and Life Cycle, Milkweed Ecology, Monarch Migration, and citizen science projects to monitor monarchs. Participants will visit the CNC's milkweed patch to monitor for monarch larvae. Live butterflies and caterpillars will be on display. Kip Kiphart and Cathy Downs are the presenters at Herff Farm, 133 Herff Road. Suggested Donation \$10. Register online at [www.Cibolo.org](http://www.Cibolo.org)

**TUESDAY, MAY 5 7-8PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND FARM, BOERNE**  
**AT 15-109 SOIL SCIENCE**

What we call soil is home to a vibrant community of bacteria, nematodes, protozoa, and micro-arthropods. Trees and soil microbes are interdependent. By knowing more about physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil, the arborist is better equipped to manage trees in the urban environment. The history of every nation is eventually written in the way in which it cares for its soil. The monthly meeting of the Boerne chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas is host for this presentation on soil science by David Vaughn, a certified arborist. For more information, go to <http://npsot.org/wp/boerne/>.

**TUESDAY, MAY 5 9-9:45AM WEBINAR**  
**AT 15-045 HAWK TALK**

Videoconferencing style programs are offered through Connect2Texas. Each program is 45 minutes long, designed for grades 1-6, TEKS aligned, and free. To register, go to ([www.connect2texas.net](http://www.connect2texas.net)). (Registration for a program can only take place through Connect2Texas.)

**MONDAY, MAY 11-SATURDAY, MAY 16 CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND FARM, BOERNE**  
**AT 15-106 SPRING 2015 WILDLIFE FIELD RESEARCH**

For information and registration, go to [www.WildlifeFieldResearch.org](http://www.WildlifeFieldResearch.org).

**TUESDAY, MAY 12 1:30PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE (RNC)**  
**AT 15-103 NPSOT Gardens at RNC**

The Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will tour the NPSOT gardens on the grounds of the Riverside Nature Center. NPSOT volunteers will present the program: Marion Worthington will present the composting project and Naturalist Susan Sander will present the Riverscape project. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call Barbara Stidham at 830-928-3202.

**TUESDAY, MAY 19 WEBINAR**  
**AT 15-046 9-9:45AM BATS-A-MILLION**

Videoconferencing style programs are offered through Connect2Texas. Each program is 45 minutes long, designed for grades 1-6, TEKS aligned, and free. To register, go to ([www.connect2texas.net](http://www.connect2texas.net)). (Registration for a program can only take place through Connect2Texas.)

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.

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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:  
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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,  
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