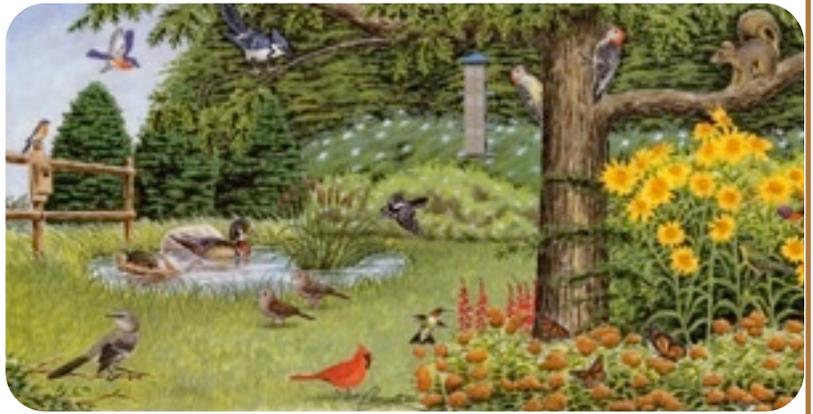


# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the  
Texas Master Naturalist  
Hill Country Chapter  
June 2015 Volume 13 Number 6



Texas Parks & Wildlife

T E X A S

Master  
Naturalist™



JUNE 22 MEETING:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Jessica Alderson, Urban Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, will address the many complex issues--emerging diseases, climate change, urbanization, insufficient land use planning, emerging energy production, declining conservation funding--that confront the conservation community.

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

Hi,

We have finally started to have sun again. I hope that none of you experienced the ravage of flood, as some places did. Many of the parks are needing help in clearing the debris, if you are looking for some volunteer work.

Be sure to encourage people who are interested in learning and sharing knowledge about our lovely Hill Country to apply before July 13 to be in the 2015 class. Please consider being a mentor to one of the 2015 trainees; see the article in this newsletter for information about mentoring.

On June 22, Jessica Alderson, TP&WD Urban Biologist, will speak at our Chapter Meeting on Wildlife Conservation Interests in Texas. I hope to see you there with interested friends.

A new field trip is just now being announced to Cave Without a Name in Boerne on Saturday, July 25. If you have never been there before, it is certainly worth a visit. The group will be limited to about 25 or 30 people. To reserve a spot please contact me at ([kathyollu@aol.com](mailto:kathyollu@aol.com)). We can picnic on the grounds and take the surrounding trails to see above-ground karst geology. The cost is \$16 per person, which is a reduced price if we have at least 12 people. Directions and pictures are on the website <http://www.cavewithoutaname.com>.

Enjoy the Hill Country!

Kathy Ward

Hill Country Master Naturalist Chapter 2015 President



Initial Certification

Mike Leep

Special Recertification

Carla Brady

2015 Recertification

Richard Adams, Karen Burkett, Koy Coffey, Terri Criswell, Becky Etzler, Lucy Griffith, Myrna Langford, Alexis McRoberts, Andy Robinson, John Sloan, Charles Smith

Milestones

Gary Fest - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours

Koy Coffey - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours

Photos from the Annual Picnic at the LBJ State Park



*From Lisa Flanagan, Chapter Membership Director, and Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist State Program Coordinator*



It is with sadness that we share with you news of the passing of Ron Hood on June 13, 2015, of heart complications, in a San Antonio hospital.

Ron was a member of the Class of 2004. He was an enthusiastic volunteer who had surpassed the 10,000 hour Volunteer Service Milestone. Many of those hours were spent at the Old Tunnel State Park, where he enjoyed sharing his knowledge of the old railroad tunnel and the bats living there. He was our chapter's project coordinator for Texas Nature Trackers and Citizen Science Projects. Other favorite activities were bird censuses, waterfowl surveys, hummingbird watch, and monarchs, as well as the Riverside Nature Center fauna count. He was part of the 24-hour Great Backyard Bird Count at RNC a few years ago. As of this date, Ron had contributed more than 10,600 hours of volunteer work.



*Ron Hood receiving the 10,000 hour award from Michelle Haggerty, Nov. 2014*

Please join our TMN family in sending condolences to his wife, Shirley, and family. Her address is 286 Deer Road, Tarpley 78883.

He certainly will be missed!

Viewing: Grimes Funeral Chapel, Bandera on Friday June 19th, 6-8 PM  
Burial: Tarpley Cemetery on Saturday June 20th, 10:00 AM  
Obituary, Funeral Service, and Burial Information:  
[http://grimesfuneralchapels.com/?page\\_id=95&id=513](http://grimesfuneralchapels.com/?page_id=95&id=513)

## Mentors Needed for the Class of 2015

We will soon be forming our new class of trainees to become Hill Country Master Naturalists. We have an excellent curriculum and exciting speakers ready to go. Each trainee's mentor plays an important part in his or her training. Thus, this is a call for a group of dedicated Master Naturalists to mentor our trainees as they progress through their training. In early August we will have a brief informational session for mentors that will include distribution of the class materials and suggestions for a great mentor experience.



Here is a summary of the mentor guidelines in our Chapter Operating Handbook:

Mentors will be assigned one or more trainees, generally within each mentor's geographical area, and will receive biographical information for each of their trainees. They meet with their assigned trainees before the new class reception in August to deliver the class materials and discuss important aspects of the training sessions. At that reception, they give brief biographical statements to introduce their trainees. Throughout the training process, mentors answer questions, suggest volunteer opportunities, and help to solve any problems that might hinder trainees' certification.



We have many knowledgeable trained Master Naturalists who can guide our trainees through a wonderful training experience. Your encouragement and enthusiasm can make an important difference. If you are interested in being a mentor for this year's training class, please contact Lisa Flanagan, Membership Director, at [hillcountrymembership@gmail.com](mailto:hillcountrymembership@gmail.com).



Photo by Mike Murphy



Created through collaboration: [Schreiner University](#), [Texas Tech University](#), [Texas Public Radio](#), [Hill Country Land Trust](#) and [Hill Country Alliance](#)



## Regional Growth and Our State Water Planning Process: How You Can Get Involved

*Water, essential for life, is our most precious and valuable natural resource. But water supply is limited and under increasing pressure from a growing population. How will we protect this resource and plan for a sustainable future? There is a great need for a water-literate public; decisions being made today have far reaching and long lasting effects for our children and future generations.*

The Texas Water Symposium provides perspectives from landowners, policy makers, scientists, water resource experts and regional leaders.

Each session is **free and open to the public**. The conversation will run from 7:00 – 8:30pm, and will be recorded for Texas Public Radio.

Stay informed about future programs by subscribing at [www.hillcountryalliance.org](http://www.hillcountryalliance.org)

More information at: [www.schreiner.edu/water](http://www.schreiner.edu/water)

*Participate in your region's planning process! Public comment meetings are planned for the coming months.*

**Region J:** Public Meeting July 23 in Rock Springs. Deadline for public comment Sep. 21.

**Region K:** Public Meetings June 23 in Wharton, June 25 in Burnet, July 8 in Austin. Deadline for public comment Sept 15.

**Region L:** Public Meetings June 8 in San Antonio, June 10 in San Marcos, June 11 in Victoria. Deadline for public comment August 14.

### Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Hill Country University Center in Fredericksburg  
2818 Highway 290 East, Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
Doors open at 6:30  
Program 7:00 – 8:30 pm

**Moderator:** [Richard Parker](#), Author, [Lone Star Nation](#)

#### Featuring:

**Kathleen Jackson P.E.:** Board of Directors, Texas Water Development Board  
**Donna Klaeger:** Former Burnet County Judge, Region K representative  
**Ron Fieseler P.G.:** General Manager, Blanco Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

The Hill Country is experiencing booming population growth and is expecting a doubling of the current population by the second half of this century. At the same time, there is little being done to plan on a regional level. Where will this growth occur? How will we protect springs that feed our rivers? What are our water supply needs and will they be met?

The State Water Plan is a tool for assessing water supply strategies to meet growing demands based on population growth trends and assumptions. Projects that are included in the State Plan, such as pipelines, reservoirs, aquifer storage and recovery, desalination and conservation, make up the blueprint for where growth is possible. Residents of the Hill Country have the opportunity to participate in this planning process – happening now – and have a say in the water infrastructure that will shape growth well into the future.

The Native Healing Garden  
at the Riverside Nature Center  
Meeting on Friday, June 19, 9:30-11:30 A.M.

Our native Agarita is the focus this month. Bring your gloves and join us in the Native Healing Garden to learn the properties, benefits, and cultivation of the *Mahonia trifoliolata*. Enjoy the garden and learning in good company.



## PROPOSAL DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for submitting a proposal for the 2015 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting has been extended to June 26.

### Call for Training Workshops & Session Presentations

#### Texas Master Naturalist 16th Annual Meeting

October 23 -25, 2015

Horseshoe Bay Resort

The Texas Master Naturalist Program welcomes your proposals as contributions to our agenda. To submit your proposals, go to the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting website, <http://txmn.org/2015-annual-meeting/>.

As a workshop presenter, you have the opportunity to inform and train TMN members from across the state on natural resource topics by providing more in-depth information than their initial core training and curriculum. You are also encouraged to make this an opportunity to enlist and train our program volunteers to assist you, your program, and your work, as part of their annual volunteer service commitment.

The deadline for submissions now is **JUNE 26, 2015**

Guidelines for submitting a proposal can be found on the Texas Master Naturalist website. Questions about the Texas Master Naturalist 16th Annual Meeting or the Program in general can be directed to Michelle Haggerty ([mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mhaggerty@ag.tamu.edu)) or Mary Pearl Meuth ([mpmeuth@tamu.edu](mailto:mpmeuth@tamu.edu)).

### Statewide Quail Symposium, September 16 – 18, 2015 in Abilene

This event will feature professionals and experts in quail research, conservation, and management.

Registration and more information can be found at: <http://statewidequailsymposium.com/>

For more information contact Clint Faas at [cfaas@texas-wildlife.com](mailto:cfaas@texas-wildlife.com) or Becky Ruzicka at [becky.ruzicka@tamu.edu](mailto:becky.ruzicka@tamu.edu) .

## Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley:

- 4/10/2015 Why Native Plants and Not Exotics
- 4/17/2015 Chose a Tree for the Site and Not a Site for the Tree
- 4/24/2015 The Do's and Don'ts for an Inviting Backyard Wildlife Habitat
- 5/8/2015 A Lifetime Involved with Nature—David Attenborough
- 5/15/2015 Some Hill Country Native Trees Other than Oaks
- 5/22/2015 Which Native Animals Could Cause You the Most Harm?
- 5/29/2015 Eighty Years After the Dust Bowl. Have We Learned Enough?

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

### The Universal Beneficence of Grass

When I was a kid, I was active in 4-H, an organization for kids sponsored by what is now called the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Over the years I raised several 4-H animals and at one time I was on the 4-H grass judging team for our county. To call it “grass judging” was kind of a joke because it was really just grass identification contests, and I was really awful at it.

But it did instill in me a deep appreciation and interest in grass that has continued throughout my life. I now know a lot more about our native grasses and I certainly consider them the most important class of vegetation to have on the land, both because grass is best at holding water and preventing erosion as well as building a fertile soil.

So when I read the following essay, written well over 100 years ago, probably sometime after the Civil War, I immediately wanted to share it with you. -- Jim Stanley

#### Grass

John James Ingalls

Next in importance to the divine profusion of water, light and air, those three physical facts which render existence possible, may be reckoned the universal beneficence of grass. Lying in the sunshine among the butter-cups and dandelions of May, scarcely higher in intelligence than those minute tenants of that mimic wilderness, our earliest recollections are of grass and when the fitful fever is ended, and the foolish wrangle of the market and the forum is closed, grass heals over the scar which our decent into the bosom of the earth has made, the carpet of the infant becomes the blanket of the dead.

Grass is the forgiveness of nature—her constant benediction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of cannon, grow green again with grass, and the carnage is forgotten. Streets abandoned by traffic become grass grown like rural lanes, and are obliterated; forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal.

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Beleaguered by the sullen hosts of winter, it withdraws into the impregnable fortress of its subterranean vitality and emerges upon solicitation of spring. Sown by the winds, by wandering birds, propagated by the subtle horticulture of the elements, which are its ministers and servants, it softens the rude outline of the world. Its tenacious fibers hold the earth in its place, and prevent its soluble components from washing into the sea.

It invades the solitude of deserts, climbs the inaccessible slopes and forbidding pinnacles of mountains, modifies the climates and determines the history, character and destiny of nations. Unobtrusive and patient, it has immortal vigor and aggression. Banished from the thoroughfare and field, it bides its time to return, and when vigilance is relaxed, or the dynasty has perished, it silently resumes the throne from which it has been expelled, but which it never abdicates.

It bears no blazonry of bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor, but its homely hue is more enchanting than the lily or the rose. It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet, should its harvest fail for a single year famine would depopulate the world.

John James Ingalls (1833-1900), was an author, orator, lawyer, and Kansas senator. My thanks to Ricky Linex of the USDA/NRCS for bringing this essay to my attention.

I assume, from the location and time that the author lived, that he was primarily thinking about the native prairie grass that would have been growing in the Tall Grass Prairies of Kansas during his time. This grass kept the soil in place and made for the most fertile land in the country. Unfortunately, the non-native lawn grasses most folks have around their houses have few if any of the beneficial properties of our native prairie grasses.

Until next time...

Jim Stanley is a Texas Master Naturalist and the author of the books *Hill Country Landowner's Guide* and *A Beginner's Handbook for Rural Texas Landowners: How to Live in the Country Without Spoiling It*. He can be reached at [jstmn@krc.com](mailto:jstmn@krc.com). Previous columns can be seen at [www.hillcountrynaturalist.org](http://www.hillcountrynaturalist.org).



**2015 Summer Bluebird Symposium  
and FUNdraising Auction**  
**Saturday, August 8, 2015 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Brazos County Expo Center**  
**5827 Leonard Road, Bryan, TX 77807**

Our annual symposium promotes the conservation of bluebirds and teaches the public how to attract and provide quality habitat for bluebirds across Texas. Guest speakers at this year's symposium will cover topics that bluebirders, new and experienced, will find interesting and entertaining. Attendees have the opportunity to win door prizes. Join us for an informative and fun-filled day.

Go to [www.txblues.org/2015events](http://www.txblues.org/2015events) for details.

## Knots at the Kroc Center

Fellow Master Naturalist Angelo Falzarano presented the fourth and fifth graders at the Kroc Center with an engaging and educational program of tying knots. They worked with a package of all the supplies needed to set up on a display board to take home. Everyone eagerly fell into the activity, observing Angelo's instructions and studying two large diagram boards in order to duplicate his examples.



Square knots, figure 8's, slip knots, taut-line hitches, and half hitches were accomplished and then arranged artfully on display boards and attached with a glue gun. There is no doubt that it was a bit challenging for the volunteers who were there to assist. Sometimes the students had to show the volunteers what to do and how to do it. Some of the students were so captivated that they asked to take some materials home to continue the activity. They also got creative with the display boards, by making them look like tables.



A few of our students recognized us from the recent field trip 4th graders took to the nature center and wanted to share that the seed balls they produced there were growing Cow pen Daisies and Dill. Another activity they mentioned was the thrill of seeing a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis. If we ever doubted that our time with these students in nature study was time well spent, doubt was dispelled by hearing comments like these.



Master Naturalists Julie Clay, Martha Miesch, and John Sloan assisted. If you're interested in being involved in the nature study programs we do during the school year at the Kroc Center, please contact Martha Miesch at [marthamiesch@msn.com](mailto:marthamiesch@msn.com). Our nature study programs are once each month from September through May.



AgriLife Extension Experts: Texans Should Expect Mosquito Population Explosion  
by Paul Schattenberg and Steve Byrns, Texas A&M AgriLife Communications

Anticipating a significant increase in the state's mosquito population, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologists are offering tips on how Texans can help slow mosquito breeding in backyards and protect from being bitten.

“Mosquito populations are booming throughout the state and will likely not go away anytime soon after all our rains and flooding,” said Dr. Mike Merchant, AgriLife Extension urban entomologist in Dallas. “Not all of the mosquitoes swarming us right now are likely to carry disease, but West Nile virus-infected mosquitoes are beginning to show up in traps.”

Texas Department of State Health Services recently announced the first 2015 case of West Nile virus in the state, and Dallas County Health and Human Services just issued a health advisory reporting its first positive mosquito pool of the year.

Merchant added that chikungunya, another disease transmitted by mosquitoes, is on the radar of U.S. and state health officials as a growing concern. He said the virus is regularly brought into the U.S. by travelers, but as yet a human-to-mosquito-to-human cycle has not developed in Texas.

“This could change, however, as it did last year in Florida where a handful of cases occurred among Floridians who had not traveled to the Caribbean,” Merchant said. “The principal mosquito vectors of chikungunya include the Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, and its close relative, the yellow fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. Chikungunya frequently comes with a very bad headache, joint pain, rash and fever. There is no treatment for or vaccine to protect from this disease.”

For more information about where mosquitoes can breed, and how to identify *Aedes* and other mosquitoes, Merchant suggested going to AgriLife Extension's Mosquito Safari website, <http://mosquitosafari.tamu.edu>.

Humans are not the only ones to suffer from mosquito-borne diseases, AgriLife Extension experts noted. “Mosquitoes can also be vectors for dog heartworm,” said Dr. Sonja Swiger, AgriLife Extension livestock/veterinary entomologist in Stephenville.

According to Swiger, an infected mosquito can pass tiny heartworm parasites on to any uninfected dog it bites. Heartworm causes lasting damage to heart, lungs, and arteries, and can affect the dog's quality and length of life. In addition, horses are susceptible to several encephalitis diseases, including West Nile virus, and should be vaccinated every year.

Swiger said that to control mosquitoes effectively and economically, everyone should understand their basic life cycle and be familiar with the important mosquito types. According to Swiger, mosquitoes can be divided into two groups, based on where they lay their eggs. For example, floodwater mosquitoes lay eggs on the ground in low spots, and these eggs hatch when it rains and the low area fills with water.

“With the unusually high May rainfall, these mosquitoes are common now and likely to remain so during the duration of the rain,” she said. “Floodwater mosquitoes are good fliers and can travel many miles



*The Texas mosquito shown here is one of the two mosquito species known to transmit the chikungunya virus. The other is the closely related yellow fever mosquito. Both species are found in Texas. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Mike Merchant.)*

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from their breeding sites in temporary pools, roadsides and low lying areas.” She noted there is little people can do on their own property to protect themselves from floodwater mosquitoes, other than stay indoors or wear repellent.

“We have more control over other mosquitoes that breed in containers and live closer to town,” Swiger said. “Container breeding mosquitoes include some of the most significant species that may negatively affect human health, including the common house mosquito.”

The entomologists referred to what they called “the four D’s” as a general means for people to help manage mosquitoes and protect against bites. These are:

– Dusk/Dawn – Avoid being outside when mosquitoes are searching for a blood meal, which is usually in the early morning hours and just before the sun goes down. While some species are daytime biters, most prefer to feed at dusk and dawn.

– Drain – Empty standing water from “containers” around your home and work areas, such as buckets, wheelbarrows, kiddie pools, toys, dog bowls, water troughs, tires, bottles, etc. Make improvements that allow standing water to run off, following rains.

– Dress – If out during mosquito feeding hours, wear long sleeves and pants in plain colors. Avoid attracting them by wearing excessive amounts of perfume or aftershave.

– Defend – Any time you go outside for an extended period of time, wear an insect repellent.

Dr. Charles Allen, AgriLife Extension entomology program leader in San Angelo, said mowing tall weeds and grass can help eliminate some mosquito resting areas.

“When mosquito populations are high, labeled contact insecticides can be used to knock down adults,” he said. “For greatest effectiveness, sprays should be directed to shady mosquito resting areas. In addition, insecticide-based misting systems can be effective short-term, but repeated applications can cause insecticide resistance or be harmful to non-target insects and may result in loss of control. These systems are most likely to be effective if timers are set to spray when mosquitoes are most active.”

Allen said there are also techniques that can help control larval stage of mosquitoes in water. “Mosquito dunks containing insect growth regulators or Bti, the mosquito larva’s bacterial natural enemy, can be used in water that cannot be dumped or drained to reduce mosquito populations,” he said.

“Products that apply a surface film or oil on the water can also be used to reduce larval mosquito and pupal populations by preventing them from getting air through their breathing tubes,” he said. The use of films or oils should be limited to locations without any other organisms, since it will prevent oxygen going to the non-target organisms as well.

According to Merchant, insect repellent is still the best overall defense against those “less savory insect and mite biters.” “I always suggest people keep a bottle or can of repellent just outside their doorway to remind them to spray exposed skin, even if they plan to be outside just a short while,” he said. “Keeping repellent in your car is a very good idea too.”

The entomologists agreed that repellents with DEET remain the gold standard for protection. “DEET has some of the best persistence. However, there are good alternatives to DEET if you aren’t going to be outside very long,” Merchant said. “The natural repellent, oil of lemon eucalyptus, is a good alternative to DEET for those who prefer an organic product. The most important thing is to find a repellent that works for you and to use it.”

Merchant periodically posts news updates on mosquito activity on his City Bugs website, <http://citybugs.tamu.edu>. He also has developed four short videos on different aspects of mosquito control that can be found at <http://bit.ly/1F8cZkg>.

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## The View From Rusty Bend



*The rain to the wind said,  
'You push and I'll pelt.'  
They so smote the garden bed  
That the flowers actually knelt,  
And lay lodged--though not dead.  
I know how the flowers felt.*

- Robert Frost

Wet, wild and windy at Rusty Bend. We have been savoring our payoff from the restoration of the pasture; bragging on the amazing grass sponge that absorbed runoff from rain after rain. Now, nearly eight inches in 24 hours changes the story. The tanks are full, and seasonal creeks have returned, but the river...the river... is epic.

We watch it rise just before dark. The water's edges creep over the banks along the valley, a rich color of coffee-with-cream dotted with dark, wet logs. The flood feels animate, smelling strangely of perch and manure. I hear it roar in several octaves and I can feel it vibrate in my chest all night as it pummels the cliff. My sense of scale is forever transformed.

The next morning, the flood has subsided enough to assess the damage. Logs hang in the trees 25 feet above the flow. Our picnic table has probably made it to the Gulf of Mexico. A roll of barbed wire we pulled from an old fence is gone, too. Some trees are bowed, but not broken. Our gracious bend in the river has saved the cypress gallery from the full force of the flood. The big prairie grasses have just laid down, their roots as deep as they are tall. No erosion. We celebrate.

The ravens fly restlessly. Their nest is untouched but it must have been a wild night with the roaring water below. The young ones, just fledged, sound off with their "har-de-har-har" screeches. Four Great Blue Herons glide by, croaking. One has a fish in his throat. His cry sounds strangled.

We welcome the piles of wet wood. Not trash, but perfect nurseries for fireflies to sweeten our evenings. The river has been scrubbed. No stagnant pools, or gooey edges. As it recedes further, the riverbed will be rearranged, with new rapids and gravel bars to explore. Our beloved Guadalupe will have a new song to sing.

In the mornings after rain, we are gifted with Common Nighthawks and Free-tailed bats. Team Mosquito on the job. They whirl and feast. Thank you, thank you.

Perhaps because of the harsh weather, the little birds are staying very close to the house. The Painted Buntings decorate the tops of nearby trees. When feeling amorous, they seem to prefer the ranch roads. Flirting, fluttering, lovemaking in the dirt. Dangerous liaisons..

However, if there were a contest for best neighbor, the Canyon Wrens would win first prize. They follow us into the barn and the workshop. "Jeet!" they seem to say, "Got bugs?" They make us laugh when they show up with a "beakful o' fluff" to decorate their nests or a "beakful 'o bugs" for babies. Curious and bold, we see their long curved beaks as they peer down at us from the top of the garage door. And then there's the music: that gentle descending serenade that awakens us each morning, greets us throughout the day, and sings a sweet goodnight at dusk.

One morning it is drizzling. Again. I look out the window and see a young White-tail buck. The velvet on his antlers is finely silvered with rain. I am struck by a bolt of joy. And I think, after a long drought, rain is a synonym for gratitude.

*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

### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 1-2PM WEBINAR**

AT15-137 ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE: BIODIVERSITY

This session, the second in a four-part series, will present scientific research examining the biodiversity benefits of organic farming practices in diverse farm systems. The presenter is Dr. John Quinn. Go to <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/environmental-benefits-of-organic-agriculture-biodiversity>.

### **THURSDAY, JUNE 18 8:30-10:30AM HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA, BANDERA**

AT15-145 JUNE BIRDING WITH MASTER NATURALISTS

A Thursday morning walk with nature, spotting summer birds, and more. All levels welcome! Come to learn or teach birding. Easy walk; prepare for warm weather. Bring water, binoculars, and bird guides (some are available for loan). Check in at Headquarters at 8:15 am. Regular entry fees apply. The presenter is Leanne Beauxbeannes. An RSVP is always appreciated; go to <http://tpwd.state.tx.us>

### **THURSDAY, JUNE 18 7-8:30PM HILL COUNTRY UNIVERSITY CENTER, FREDERICKSBURG**

AT15-146 REGIONAL GROWTH AND OUR STATE WATER PLANNING PROCESS

The State Water Plan is a tool for assessing water supply strategies to meet growing demands based on population growth trends and assumptions. Projects included in the State Plan, such as pipelines, reservoirs, aquifer storage and recovery, desalination, and conservation make up the blueprint. Hill Country residents can participate in the planning process for the water infrastructure that will shape growth well into the future.

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 19 4-7PM FREDERICKSBURG INN AND SUITES, FREDERICKSBURG**

AT15-147 LANDOWNER WORKSHOP: HEALTH & MANAGEMENT OF BARONS AND TOWN CREEKS

Our riparian experts will provide information on the plants in our creeks and some common invaders, and provide ideas to improve the streams' health and function. Most of the workshop will take place outdoors alongside the stream. In case of rain we will be indoors. RSVP to [Katherine@hillcountryalliance.org](mailto:Katherine@hillcountryalliance.org).

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 20 10-11:30AM COMFORT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

AT15-134 MONARCHS AND MILKWEEDS

The presenter, Cathy Downs, will cover these topics: Monarch anatomy, biology, and life cycle; migration decline and the reasons for habitat decimation; identifying several local milkweeds and why they are crucial to Monarch survival; and identifying native nectar plants and the importance of fall blooming plants.

### **MONDAY, JUNE 22 7PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE**

AT15-100 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ISSUES

Jessica Alderson, Urban Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, will speak at the chapter monthly meeting on the complex issues--emerging diseases, climate change, urbanization, insufficient land use planning, emerging energy production, declining conservation funding--confronting the conservation community.

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 27 10AM-12PM COMFORT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

AT15-140 MEDICINAL AND EDIBLE PLANTS IN THE HILL COUNTRY

When you look out into your yard or your pastures there is a world of precious plants growing. Daneshu Clarke will introduce you to plants that have been used for centuries for medicines and food.

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 27 10:30-11:30AM HERFF FARM INSPIRATION GARDEN, BOERNE**

AT15-143 CONSTRUCTING RAIN BARRELS

Master Gardener Shanna Ciano will show you what to buy, what tools you need, and how to make a rain barrel.

### **THURSDAY, JULY 16 1-2PM WEBINAR**

AT15-139 NATURE'S NOTEBOOK: HOW ARE YOUR DATA BEING USED?

The ways in which data collected through Nature's Notebook are being used is growing nearly by the day. Join us as we walk through a range of real-world applications for these observations.

Go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5859496842016253697>

**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.**

T E X A S

Master  
Naturalist™



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
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