

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the

Texas Master Naturalist

Hill Country Chapter

August 2015 Volume 13 Number 8



T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



CLASS OF 2015 RECEPTION

The reception, at which their mentors will introduce each of the new trainees, will be Monday, August 17, 6:30 p.m., at the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center in Kerrville. Classes begin on Wednesday, August 19, at the Texas Lions Camp. Our regular monthly chapter meetings will resume in September.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . Kathy Ward

Greetings!

It is good to know that we can expect cooler weather as fall approaches. That will give us the incentive to do more out-of-door volunteering. There are a lot of opportunities for Advanced Training coming up in September and October. The Texas Pollinator PowWow is Sept. 19–20. We have been asked to host a table there, so contact Lisa Flanagan if you wish to volunteer. Riverside Nature Center is preparing for their Native Plant sale on Oct. 2–3. The Texas Native Plant Society is having a symposium in Austin on Oct. 15–18. Our own Master Naturalist State Meeting will be Oct. 23–24 at the Horseshoe Bay Resort in Marble Falls.

Welcome to the Class of 2015! Volunteer mentors have met with each of the new trainees to review the core curriculum and respond to their questions about the classes. I look forward to meeting all of the trainees over refreshments during the Class Reception. Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist State Program Director, will provide a brief overview of the history, scope, and contributions of our organization. Then the mentors will be recognized, and they will in turn give brief introductions of each of the trainees for whom they are mentors.

Thanks to our Class Director, Brenda Fest, to the Class Committee members, and to our Membership Director, Lisa Flanagan, who has communicated with all of the applicants. Special thanks also go to our members who've volunteered to mentor these trainees.

I hope to see you at the September chapter meeting on Sept. 28 when Charlie Flatten will speak on "The Future of Water," a very important topic for the Hill Country.

Kathy Ward

Hill Country Master Naturalist 2015 President

This Month We Honor

Initial Certification

Bobby Gierisch, Donna Dutton, Ed Booker, Susan Booker

Recertification

Eileen Gotke, Jim Jones, Sandra Meineke, Tom Riordan

Milestones

Mary Thomas – Bronze Butterfly, 250 hours

Lisa Flanagan – Brushed Silver Butterfly, 500 hours



Congratulations to members who received awards at the July meeting:

From left to right, front row: Karla Trefny, Kay Harter, Tyra Kane
back row: Brenda Fest, Tim Graham, Robin Graham, Peggy Carnahan,
Warren Ferguson, Sharon Hixson, Michael Foulds

From Sandy Leyendecker

Change in Reporting Monthly Hours:

The auditors brought to our attention that we must report all project hours on a daily basis – day and hours each day – for almost all of our projects. The only projects that can be lumped into one sum for the month are the field research projects like nature trackers, mollusk surveys, Cornell Citizen Science Programs, bird counts, nest watch, CoCoRaHS, etc. Even chapter support projects must be reported by day/hour. When we change to the Volunteer Management System reporting system in January, it will be easy. For now you will need to be creative and list several dates on one line and then show the corresponding hours, using commas or semi-colons. Most of us keep a daily log so this should not be too much trouble. Many are already reporting this way. Thanks for your help with this.

Example of Volunteer Hours Report (Travel time does count.)

Date	Project ID from Approved List	Project Name from Approved List	Hours
June 10, 12, 15, 17	HC-01-A	2015 class work, BD meetings, business	2,2,2,4
June 13	HC-01-B	Table Kerr River Trail Opening	5.5
June 16	KL-11-A	Bd meeting, seedball pres to CNC camp	2, 2,
June 29	KL-02-B	CNC Nature Box	3
June 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 19, 23, 25, 30	BD-04-B	ABK plants, birds, geology, bd	8, 5, 8, 5, 3, 5, 4, 4, 10, 9, 6.5
June 3	CC-09-A	NABA butterfly Love Creek	5
		TOTAL	95

Texas Pollinator PowWow 2015 - Kerrville Saturday – Sunday, September 19-20

BIRDS, BATS, BEES, BUTTERFLIES and more! Come learn about Texas plants and their pollinators, the conservation challenges they are facing, and how YOU can help. The **TEXAS POLLINATOR POWWOW** brings you topics ranging from native plants and bees, to hummingbirds and butterflies, to urban and rural land management best practices by experts from around the state and beyond. We are pleased to present to you some of the best and brightest of minds and committed professionals in pollination conservation today.

It is our desire that the general public be educated, edified and entertained, and that conservation staff and volunteers be enabled to network with others outside their own narrow focus while being provided with a popular venue to share their missions with the community at large.

We will have a fantastic group of **EXHIBITORS** on hand both days to answer questions, provide resources, and showcase their organizations. There will be **LIVE EXHIBITS** featuring bees, butterflies, caterpillars and the precious bat 'ambassadors' from Bat Conservation International. Desirable pollinator-related items will be available by **RAFFLE** at the end of the conference (your presence is required to win). A **HOT BUFFET LUNCH** (menu provided soon) and complimentary coffee, iced tea, and water are included with the price of your registration.

NOTE: SEATING IS LIMITED AND PRE-REGISTRATION BY SEPT. 5 IS REQUIRED.

FOR PRE-REGISTRATION, CONFERENCE AGENDA, SPEAKER INFORMATION, RESOURCES:
please see our website at www.texaspollinatorpowwow.org



Better Lights for Starry Nights

Join us for the Hill Country Alliance Dark Sky Program

Learn how to save money and preserve our night skies!

Tuesday • August 18, 2015 • 2:30 p.m.

Lakeshore Library • 7346 Hwy. 261, Buchanan Dam • 325.379.1174

Fun, Free, Open to the Public, Kids Welcome!

A dark night sky full of big bright stars is important here in the Hill Country, just like clean rivers, scenic vistas and natural landscapes. Little by little, light-by-light, the magical mystery of the big Texas night sky is diminishing. But it's not too late to reverse this trend. You can help!

- Bill Wren from the McDonald Observatory will deliver a presentation on light pollution and the importance of the starry night sky to the Hill Country.
- Learn Money Saving Tips - what you can do to "fix" wasteful outdoor lights at your home, ranch, neighborhood and community.
- Sports fields, commercial buildings, schools can all be safely and effectively lit in ways that reduce light pollution – find out how!
-
-



Learn more about protecting Starry Nights: www.HillCountryNightSkies.org

Native Plant Society of Texas – Fredericksburg Chapter
meeting at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Milam St., Fredericksburg

August 25, Tuesday, 7pm

The social gathering begins at 6:30 and the program begins at 7:00. A panel of chapter members will discuss fall care and maintenance of native plants, followed by questions and answers.

September 22, Tuesday, 7pm

The social gathering begins at 6:30 and the program begins at 7:00. Kelly Conrad Simon, Texas Parks and Wildlife, will talk about native plants to attract wildlife and for month-by-month interest and color.

Riverside Nature Center

150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville

RSVP to 830-257-4837

www.riversidenaturecenter.org RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com

September Events

Sept. 8, Tuesday, 11:30am. - 12:45pm. Brown Bag Lunch & Learn

Susan Longacre, geologist, meadow worker, and Lead Seed, will do a wrap-up talk about the current Hill Country Rocks Exhibit and give some sneak insights into the next one. Cost: \$5 RNC Members; \$10 Non-members.

Sept. 10, Thursday, 5:30-7pm. Conversation with Conservationists Series

Come and join us for a Wine and Cheese reception and conversation with Billy Kniffen, Water Resource Associate in the Biological and Agricultural Engineer Department with the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service. Billy will speak on Roof Reliant Landscaping. His knowledge is extensive and his efforts have been directed towards rainwater harvesting, land management, and watershed stewardship. Suggested donation \$20; AT credit available.

Sept. 12, Saturday, 8am. Riverside Nature Center is hosting a 5k run/walk along the new, paved trail along the scenic Guadalupe River. We will start and finish at the Riverside Nature Center and have refreshments, awards, music and door prizes. Both runners and walkers welcome; so are dogs (on leashes) and baby strollers. Proceeds benefit the Riverside Nature Center, a non-profit nature center providing community education programs for the public utilizing acres of native plants and trees, rainwater harvesting, and river trail access.

Cost: \$25 through August 12th, \$30 August 13-Sept 10th, \$35 Sept 11-Race Day

Awards: Overall 1st, 2nd, 3rd Male/Female and top 3 male/female in age groups
10 and under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79 and 80+
T-SHIRTS TO ALL REGISTRANTS

Please help share the news! We still need sponsors, and volunteers to help on race day.

For questions and information, contact Valeska Danielak at 830-370-2464 or email
run4riverside@gmail.com. Register at www.athleteguild.com

Texas Native Plant Youth Photo Contest 2015

The Native Plant Society of Texas Boerne Chapter, in collaboration with the Cibolo Nature Center & Farm and the Patrick L. Heath Public Library, is sponsoring a photography contest for Boerne youth to celebrate Native Plant Week in October. Our goal is to challenge amateur photographers of all skill levels to use their cameras as tools to learn more about the native plants and pollinators of the Texas Hill Country. All photos will be on display Oct. 6 to 26 at the library. The public (all ages) is invited to vote for the "People's Choice Award" at the library on Oct. 6 from 3 to 6:30. Contest winners will be announced at 7 in the community room. For more information, go to www.NPSOT/org/wp/boerne.

Cibolo Nature Center and Farm
140 City Park Road, Boerne
nature@cibolo.org 830-249-4616

August - September Events

August 26, Wednesday, 6-8 pm

Estate Planning in the Hill Country: What Every Landowner Needs to Know

The workshop will be presented by Thomas Hall, estate planning attorney with Braun & Gresham, PLLC, of Austin. It is geared toward landowners, farm and ranch real estate professionals, estate planners, financial planners, and wealth managers. Mr. Hall will explore how families can legally protect and preserve the legacy of their land and be eligible for tax relief at the same time.

Cost: \$15, CNC&F and/or Cibolo Conservancy members; \$20.00, individual non-members.

To register, go to <https://cibolo.org.presencehost.net/experience/events/calendar.html/event-form/estate-planning-workshop/10907/tickets>.

August 29, Saturday, 9am-12pm

Harvesting Rainwater & Solar Energy Workshop

John Kight, engineer, rainwater catchment and solar panel owner gives the latest technological information and the most practical advice. Learn about design and materials from someone who has done it himself! The Kight home relies solely on rainwater and uses no well or outside water source. Kight's grid tied solar energy system is tied to a battery backup and provides enough electricity for normal demand during fall, winter and spring. The latter part of the workshop will be at the Kight home. Everyone will carpool from the CNC parking lot. Cost: \$25 members; \$35 non-members. To register, go to <https://presencehost.net/experience/events/calendar.html/event-form/harvesting-rainwater-solar-energy/11777/tickets>.

Sept. 5-6, Saturday – Sunday, 9am-6pm

Wilderness First Aid with WMI and REI

REI is partnering with the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS to offer a comprehensive 16 hour, two day course that will teach you the wilderness medicine skills you need to recreate with confidence in the back country. This course is ideal for trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts and individuals in remote locations. Minimum age is 16 years old. No prerequisites. Successful completion results in a Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS Wilderness First Aid certification.. Cost: \$225/person. For more information, contact Ben Eldredge, ben@cibolo.org or 830-249-4616. To register, go to <http://www.rei.com/learn.html>.

Sept. 17, Thursday, 6-8pm

A "Thirst for Nature" Evening: "Pups and Pints"

Grab your dog and join us for a beer as we take a walking tour of the Cibolo Nature Center. CNC educators will point out the natural wonders, discuss stewardship of the land, and explore the history of the Cibolo Nature Center & Farm. There will be lots of wild animals in our midst, so be sure to bring a leash. Cost: \$10 for adults; free for kids.

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley:

7/3/2015 Leaves—Common, Complex, Essential to Life as We Know It

7/10/2015 The Cedar—Water Connection: More Complicated Than You Think

7/17/2015 Where Did Our Native Plants and Animals Come From?
And How Can We Keep Them?

7/24/2015 Watching Our Backyard Wildlife

7/31/2015 The Most Common Shrubs and Vines of the Hill Country

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



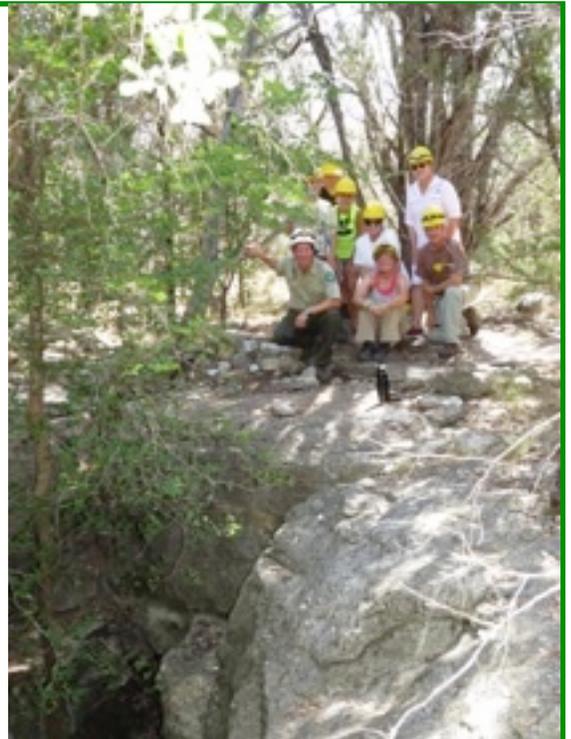
From Eileen Gotke

Colorado Bend State Park Trip

On the first 100 degree day this summer, some brave and crazy volunteers from Old Tunnel State Park made a day of caving and hiking to Gorman Falls at the Colorado Bend State Park with their fearless leader and boss, Old Tunnel Superintendent Nyta Brown. A Colorado Bend State Park staff member guided us into one of the many caves at the park and provided an informative talk about the caves and park property that looks down on the Colorado River. The photo shows us about to descend into the cave.

The park offers 32 miles of multiuse routes for hiking, primitive camping, mountain biking, caving, swimming, fishing, paddling, birding, and wildlife viewing. The 60-foot waterfall is a featured jewel of the park.

For more information about this Hill Country state park located near Bend, go to the website at www.tpwd.texas.gov or call 325-628-3240. Call 512-389-8900 for reservations.



From Rheda Boardman

The Boerne Birders Ride Again!

Monthly birding excursions in and around the Boerne/Kendall County area have started up again, and everyone is invited to join the group! Trips this Spring and Summer have already birded the recently acquired Herff Farm, across the creek from the Cibolo Nature Center; surveyed the breeding birds throughout the nature center property; and most recently we visited Camp Capers, a spectacular facility owned by the Episcopal Church on the Guadalupe River. Flycatchers, warblers, vireos, woodpeckers, kingfishers, sparrows, buntings and orioles...and that was just that one outing! We never know exactly what we will see, but the trips are always a lot of fun!

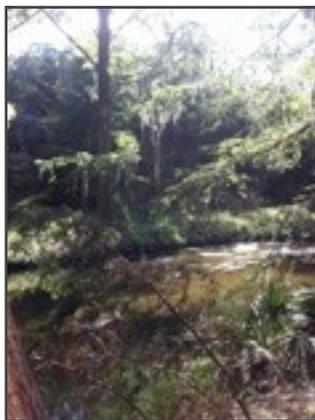
Originally created by Jan Wrede from the Cibolo Nature Center and Farm, and more recently coordinated by Betty Dunn, the Boerne Birders group was intended to give birders in the area the opportunity to get out and bird together, and document what birds were to be found, at various Hill Country sites throughout the region. Each trip is led by volunteers from within the group, who can choose the trip location, if they wish. Trip leaders do not have to be "super-birders." All that is required is the willingness to coordinate the trip, and make sure all the birds seen are recorded so they can be entered into eBird.

The trips are now being organized by Dave Bolster at the CNC&F. To be added to the Boerne Birders email list, contact him at dave@cibolo.org or 210-262-0869.

Trips generally are scheduled for the first Saturday of each month, barring holidays like the Fourth of July, when we went the following Saturday. Typically we start at 8 a.m., and go until about 10:30. Check the emails prior to the trip to see if we will be meeting at the CNC pavilion to caravan to the site, or meeting at that month's location.

Please spread the word that the Boerne Birders are at it again, and we'd love to have you join us!

From Kathy Ward



Field Trip to Cave Without A Name

On July 25 some of our members took an extraordinary field trip to Cave Without A Name in Boerne. We were fortunate to have as our tour guide the owner, Tom Summers. We first hiked down into cypress-lined Spring Creek where the water flowing in the cave emerges. In the cave we heard the story of how children who lived nearby discovered it by lowering themselves down by rope into the original cave entrance. Choosing among the cave pictures is difficult because there are so many beautiful formations. It was really cool to spend the middle of the day there in the summer. If you would like to take this field trip, we could schedule one in 2016. Let me know.



photos by Kathy Ward and Liz Ross





Bandera Area Agri-Land Workshop



Location: Faith Tabernacle Church Hall, 7789 FM 1283, Lakehills, Texas 78063

Date: Friday, September 11, 2015

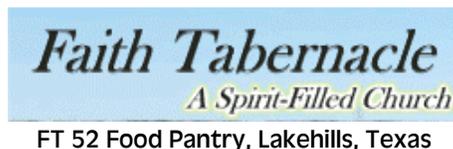
Time: 8:30 am Registration, Program from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM, Lunch Provided

Who should attend: Farmers, Ranchers, Landowners, and Interested Members of the General Public in the Bandera County and the surrounding area.

(There is no charge for this event but pre-registration is required at www.alamorcd.org)

Topic:	Presenter:
Welcome/Introductions	Alma Aguirre , Board President, Alamo RC&D and Ivan Camacho , Project Coordinator, TMBC
Rainwater Harvesting & Solar Energy	John Kight , Engineering Consultant and former Director and Vice President of Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District
Eligibility/Programs: FSA Updates for Bandera County & Farm Loan Programs: Rural Youth Loan and Microloan Program	Joel Gourley , County Executive Director Barbara Serna , Farm Loan Manager, USDA-FSA
LUNCH (provided by Alamo RCD) Tour of the FT 52 Food Pantry (During Lunch)	Catering and Tour by Faith Tabernacle Church Volunteers
Bandera County Food Council National Hunger Action Month/SA Food Bank	Alma Aguirre , Bandera County Food Council Mario Obledo , San Antonio Food Bank
An Introduction to Rural Cooperatives: Technical Assistance Provided by TRCC	Rick Carrera , Project Director, Texas Rural Cooperative Center
Brush Management & Control in Bandera County	Larry D. Stark, DC USDA-NRCS Bandera F.O
Closing Remarks/Evaluation Forms	Alma Aguirre/ Ivan Camacho

Please Pre-register by September 8, 2015 at www.alamorcd.org or by email at alamorcd@gmail.com.



Contact A. Aguirre at alamorcd@gmail.com for more information.

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STORY SERIES ON TEXAS GROUNDWATER DEPLETION LAUNCHES

State's Surface Waters Originate from Groundwater, Yet Fractured Resource Management Means Both May Become Less Reliable

Austin, Texas (July 13, 2015) The Texas Center for Policy Studies launched today *Our Desired Future*, a multimedia project to educate Texans on the interconnections between water above and below ground and what Texans can do to keep water flowing for future generations.

Even as the drought has broken across most of Texas, the long-term overdraft of the state's groundwater basins continues unabated. Groundwater accounts for 60% of the water used in Texas and a 2014 report from the House Natural Resources Committee recommends that legislators encourage groundwater districts to maximize groundwater production permitting.

Although there is some 500 times more water underground than above in Texas, more groundwater is being withdrawn each year than is being replenished, leading to the overdraft of all of the state's major aquifers. The problem of groundwater overdraft not only depletes the state's most drought-resistant water resources, it also threatens to diminish the reliability of the state's surface waters. All of the rivers originating within the state emerge from water below ground. As much as 40% of the baseflow of some of Texas' major rivers comes from groundwater in an average year; in drought years, that figure can be as high as 80%. Groundwater pumping can permanently invert the relationship between groundwater and surface water, causing surface water to disappear below ground—as illustrated by the Rio Grande near El Paso, where the river now loses 6 times more water to the underlying aquifer than the aquifer once provided to the river's baseflow. For 300 miles below that region, the Rio Grande is effectively dry.

Despite the strong interconnection of groundwater and surface water, the state manages them as two separate resources. Groundwater is the property of the landowner, while surface water is the property of the State of Texas. The state's 5-year Regional Water Plans and the resulting State Water Plan do not account for the reduction in surface water that is likely to result from increased groundwater production.

To help Texans understand where their water comes from and how the state's water resources can be managed for long-term viability, *Our Desired Future* will be released as a weekly story series over the coming month. The state's hydrology and water management is explained through the stories of Texans from different regions of the state, including the Hill Country, the Gulf, the Panhandle, West Texas and the Rio Grande Valley. These multimedia stories feature animation, videos, audio, written essays and photography. All media from the project is freely available for use in outreach and education.

In collaboration with the Hill Country Alliance, *Our Desired Future* has also developed a tool to help users identify whether they live in a groundwater district or if they are in a "white area," a region where there is no groundwater regulation, and no legal recourse to prevent groundwater owners from causing the wells or springs on neighboring lands from running dry. The project also features first-of-its-kind maps of Desired Future Conditions by county for 6 of the 9 major aquifers in the state. Desired Future Conditions are the targets set by Groundwater Management Areas for how much groundwater will remain in 50 years.

The producers are making a 30-minute radio piece freely available for download through the Public Radio Exchange. During the program, listeners meet cave divers who swim into the Trinity Aquifer, visit a farmer who pumps 35 million gallons of groundwater a day and hear from a family who live entirely from the rainwater captured on their roof. *Our Desired Future* is a project of the Texas Center for Policy Studies, and was made possible with a generous grant from the Shield-Ayres Foundation and through contributions to our Indiegogo campaign.

Our Desired Future can be found at <http://www.ourdesiredfuture.com>.

The View From Rusty Bend



Guadalupe Fishing Hole

*Here, on the pulse of this fine day
You may have the courage
To look up and out upon me,
The rock, the river, the tree, your country.*

– Maya Angelou

On the Fourth of July at Rusty Bend, fishing is the order of the day. We haul our rods and reels and tasty beverages down to the river. The air freshens as we enter the shade of the cypress trees, leaving all that is hot and dusty behind.

The river breathes out a smell, a smell that soothes, that says “I am full of life.” And the Guadalupe Fourth of July Parade begins. The turtles, lined up lesser to major, on a half-submerged log, slide off and float in the sun. The amber fin of a carp watching a nest of eggs waves above the water, like a lazy golden flag. The dragonflies are huge and mostly burnt orange; they perform a miniature air show above the ripples like tiny bi-planes. High above, the clouds glide by between the cypress branches, huge floats of pewter and silvery gray. I forget to fish, and lean back in my chair, mesmerized by their billowing shapes and soft passage. A quiet parade, but a parade nonetheless.

Up on the cliff, we are missing the rains that greened up our June. The grasses are still tall and full of seeds but yellowing and mellowing the wild emerald colors that thrilled us last month. The sky has mellowed as well. As if marinated in milk, the hazy heat has robbed us of the bold blues that rimmed those persistent thunderstorms.

We enjoy the young critters that surround us, still. Juvenile Scissor-tail Flycatchers are quite peachy colored. They appear to be figuring out how to use those new long feathers for aerial navigation. They chase and race in complete chaos, perhaps developing talents to someday drive a marauding raven mad.

A plethora of young cardinals is still in residence and the feed me flutter is still the dance du jour. They look ridiculous begging for food when they are so big. As their colors come in they appear quite raggedy and homeless, and perhaps they are. I watch a juvenile male make his first acquaintance with a fan blade on the porch. Its tilt unnerves him. He slides slowly down the edge of the blade, the dark nails of his feet scratching for purchase. His little foot knuckles arch in alarm. Yikes!

Our granddaughter calls our favorite guest the “Grand Canyon Wren.” Apt, we think, for their curiosity and playful hunting entertains us daily. Our little backwards singing *Contraria* has been nearby and has made a nest in the dogtrot of the barn. More little Canyon Wrens on the way. Will they sing backwards too?

Each evening after dinner, when it has cooled off a bit, I do my walk-around. The grass is sprinkled with *Ruellia*, the wild petunia. Instead of purple, these are white, the sub-species *Metzae*. Named for Sister Mary Clare Metz from San Antonio, they make me smile. Lasting only a day, yet so full of brightness. White gems among dry grass. A fine reminder, this time of year, to wander out and hunt in the heat for small, fleeting pleasures.

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 .



Ruellia metzae

Text and images by Lucy Griffith Copyright 2015

Advanced Training

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 7:30AM-2PM SPIRAL HORN APIARY, 8247 COUNTY ROAD, ROCHELLE
AT15-167 SPIRAL HORN APIARY TOUR

Learn about bees, including biology, bee keeping, threats to our bee population, honey production, and processing by viewing an observation hive. Meet at Topaz Confections on the east side of the square in Mason at 7:30 am for coffee and breakfast; depart for Spiral Horn Apiary at 8:00 am. Car pooling can be arranged. After the tour, lunch at Romo's Italian Restaurant in Brady; then, return to Mason where participants are encouraged to explore the town and visit our two museums. Spiral Horn Apiary is located near Rochelle, north of Brady. Pre-registration is required; contact Tony Plutino, tonyplutino@gmail.com or 512-496-2020 to provide participants' names and phone numbers. Maximum 30 people.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 4 & OCT. 4 1-5PM KERR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, 2625 FM ROAD 1340, HUNT
AT15-157 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SEMINAR

These seminars discuss land management tools and techniques for wildlife diversity. Topics will include historical accounts of the Texas Hill Country, white-tailed deer and grazing management, prescribed burning, and brush control techniques, feral swine history, damage and control, and research regarding the development of a toxic bait to combat that species. Site visits to land management examples (the Donnie E. Harmel White-tailed Deer Research Facility and the Kerr WMA Feral Swine Research Facility) will follow indoor discussions. For further information and registration, call KWMA, 830-238-4483.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9 1:30-2:30PM TEXAS LIONS CAMP, 4100 SAN ANTONIO HIGHWAY, KERRVILLE
AT15-159 TREES AND SHRUBS IDENTIFICATION

Jim Stanley is the presenter.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16 - FRIDAY, SEPT. 18 8AM-4PM STATEWIDE QUAIL SYMPOSIUM, ABILENE
AT15-148 QUAIL MANAGEMENT, RESEARCH, AND CONSERVATION

Topics will include the state of quail hunting in Texas, monitoring quail habitat on private lands, and technologies for tracking and managing quail. For more information contact Clint Faas at cfaas@texas-wildlife.com or Becky Ruzicka at becky.ruzicka@tamu.edu.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17 8AM - -5PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER (RNC), KERRVILLE
AT15-166 ANIMAL CONTROL WORKSHOP

Topics will include urban wildlife issues, ticks and other dangerous insects, bat habits and habitats, rabies, encountering animals along the river, Chagas disease, wildlife rescue, and encounters with snakes and safety. Cost: \$40 before Sept. 3; \$45 thereafter. Pre-registration is required; call 830-257-4837.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19 - SUNDAY, SEPT. 20 2100 SAN ANTONIO HIGHWAY, KERRVILLE
AT15-165 A (SEPT. 19); B (SEPT. 20). TEXAS POLLINATORS POWWOW

Learn about Texas plants and their pollinators, the conservation challenges they are facing, and how you can help. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required; for more information and registration, go to www.texaspollinatorpowwow.org.

MONDAY, SEPT. 28 7PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY AUDITORIUM, KERRVILLE
AT15-168 THE FUTURE OF WATER

Charlie Flatten, Water Resources Policy Manager at the Hill Country Alliance (HCA), will speak at the monthly chapter meeting.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30 1:30 - 2:30 PM TEXAS LIONS CAMP, 4100 SAN ANTONIO HIGHWAY, KERRVILLE
AT15-160 FORBS IDENTIFICATION

John Huecksteadt is the presenter.

**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 (but not this month) 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-- 2014 Class Representative

Vern Crawford -- Immediate Past President

LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

TXMN.ORG/HILLCOUNTRY/

Keeping the Hill Country Native

Questions about our chapter?

Email Lisa Flanagan,
Membership Director

hillcountrymembership@gmail.com

Please email them to:

Lenore Langsdorf, Editor
LenoreLangsdorf@gmail.com

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

