

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

July 2016 Volume 14 Number 7



*Bolding Jumping Spider photo
by Sheryl Smith-Rogers*

JULY 25 MEETING: COMMON SPIDERS OF CENTRAL TEXAS

T E X A S



Sheryl Smith-Rogers will cover basic spider biology and introduce attendees to common spiders they might see in their yards and around the Hill Country.

Our monthly meetings are free and open to the public. We meet in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's lecture hall, 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville. Socializing begins at 6:30; the program starts at 7:00.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . Brenda Fest

Hello Fellow Master Naturalists!

Hope all is well with everyone. The summer heat is on. Lots of folks are somewhere on vacation.

At our property in Pipe Creek, we are excited about our new friends—quails! They arrived a few weeks ago and call the characteristic bobwhite sounds back and forth to each other. I have not yet seen them but I am so excited that I can hear them. We have lived here for 12 years and after our training as Master Naturalists in 2014 we have strived to improve the diversity on our land. We have cleared enough cedar to see many beautiful native grasses rebound. We have planted and caged over 30 native trees and shrubs to provide food and habitat for the critters. The variety of butterflies and birds has increased. But I really didn't expect to have quail. We are excited and motivated to continue our efforts to enrich our land.

The 2016 Class has been selected and will be meeting with their mentors soon. If you are interested in being a mentor, please contact Lisa Flanagan (hillcountrymembership@gmail.com) and let her know. Mentor training will be held on July 28. The new class reception will be August 22 and training starts on August 24.

Join us at our July 25 chapter meeting for a presentation on the Common Spiders of Central Texas with Sheryl Smith-Rogers.

Brenda Fest

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Mary Frushour

Recertification

Kip Kiphart, Carl Luckenbach, Robin May,
Diane McMahon, Jay Munson, Andy Robinson, Charles Smith

Milestone

Rheda Boardman - Polished Silver Dragonfly, 2500 hours



Congratulations to members who received awards at the June meeting:

From left to right: Jim Bobbitt, Clarence Reed, Ann Schneider, Ric McCormick, Marion Worthington, Andy Robinson

Congratulations also to Tom Riordan and Stephen Bishop. They have reached the 4,000 hour milestone (gold dragonfly with ruby) and have also received the President's Call to Service Award and Blue Eagle pin. Tom is pictured receiving the award certificate from Michelle Haggerty.



Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley:

- 6/4/2016 How to Become More Involved in Nature-Related Activities
- 6/11/2016 RAIN: It Changes Everything
- 6/18/2016 The Most Common Grasses of the Hill Country
- 6/25/2016 Watching Barn Swallows Raise a Family

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

From Claire Mitchell

Thirteenth Annual River Clean Up

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority has scheduled the 13th annual River Clean Up for Saturday, July 23. The headquarters for the Clean Up will be at Flat Rock Park in Kerrville. Volunteers should arrive at Flat Rock Park at 8:00am for registration, instructions, and assignments. All volunteers should return to Flat Rock Park with their trash by 11:00am for refreshments and the distribution of awards for the most unusual item and the biggest item. All participants will be entered into a raffle for prizes and the first 100 pre-registered volunteers will receive an official 13th Annual River Clean Up T-shirt. Additional t-shirts will be given away on a first-come basis on the morning of the clean up.

Although the River Clean Up is a lot of fun, it is also hard work and you should plan accordingly. Wear a hat and light-weight clothing to protect you from the heat and drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. Wear leather work gloves. UGRA will have a limited quantity of work gloves available for volunteers to borrow, but please bring your own if you can. Wear clothing and shoes that are appropriate for getting wet and dirty. Also, protect yourself from the sun and bugs by applying sunscreen and insect repellent as needed.

Supplies to aid in the Clean Up are provided by many generous local sponsors.

NPSOT Boerne Names 2016 Native Plant Youth Photo Contest Winners



The winning entries of the second Texas Native Plant Youth Photo Contest were announced June 7, 2016 at the Cibolo Nature Center and Farm. The awards presentation was attended by participants, guests and members of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Boerne Chapter.

This year 39 photos, taken by 23 photographers from nine area schools and by three homeschoolers, were submitted for judging.

The contest, sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Texas, Boerne Chapter and Cibolo Nature Center & Farm was first launched in 2015, as a way to challenge amateur youth photographers in our community to learn more about native plants and pollinators of the Texas Hill Country. Entries were placed in three age groups (age 6-9, age 10-13 and age 14-18) and photos were classified in three categories (close-ups of a native plant, scenic view with native plant(s), and native plant with pollinator).

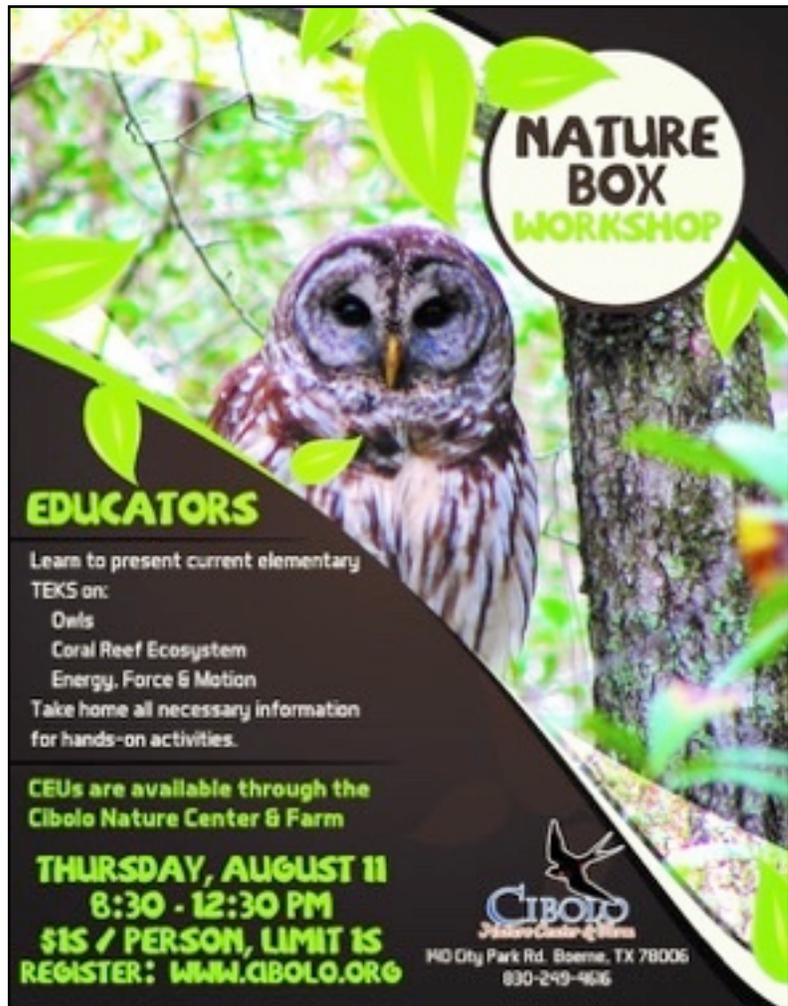
Ben Eldredge, Director of Adult Education at Cibolo Nature Center & Farm, welcomed the attendees and talked about the history of the contest and the importance of native plant education for youth.

Rheda Boardman, Contest Chairperson, made announcements. The judging panel - Cheryl Beck/CB Digital Imaging, Elizabeth Castle/Castle Photography and Sara Brumby/ Cibolo Nature Center & Farm- were introduced and each presented with a certificate of appreciation. Hill Country Master Naturalists Kathy Ward, Craig Childs, Tara Randle, and new class applicant Cecilia Fuentes were recognized for their participation in workshops and CNC&F events that were held for youth groups to provide information on Hill Country Native Plants and photography basics. H.E.B, A.C.O.R.N. Project (Alamo-Area Children Organized to Replant Natives), anonymous members of NPSOT, Taco Cabana, Native American Seed, Blue Bell Ice Cream, Kelani Yogurt, and Security State Bank & Trust were recognized and thanked for their donations.

The winners for each age group and the three categories and honorable mention winners were announced. The "People's Choice Award," based on the highest number of votes received, went to Mia Havelka for her photograph of a stick-leaf flower with a hover fly. Tom Riordan (HCMN), representing TEVA, presented her with a gift certificate for a pair of TEVA shoes.

All entries can be viewed at www.boerne.smugmug.com .

photo by Randy Fuentes



NATURE BOX WORKSHOP

EDUCATORS

Learn to present current elementary TEKS on:

- Owls
- Coral Reef Ecosystem
- Energy, Force & Motion

Take home all necessary information for hands-on activities.

CEUs are available through the Cibolo Nature Center & Farm

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11
8:30 - 12:30 PM
\$15 / PERSON, LIMIT 15
REGISTER: WWW.CIBOLO.ORG

CIBOLO
 Nature Center & Farm
 140 City Park Rd. Boerne, TX 78006
 830-249-4616



Texas Master Naturalist
17th Annual Meeting ★

OCTOBER
21 - 23, 2016
MONTGOMERY, TX
<http://www.txmn.org>

La Jorretta
 LAKE RESORT & SPA

2nd Annual
**RUN FOR
Riverside
5K**



Run & Walk

September 10th @ 8am

Registration prices:

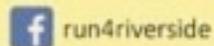
- \$30 until Aug. 12
- \$35 Aug 13 - Sep 9th
- \$45 Sep 10th race day

Contact:

Valeska Danielak for info

830-370-2464

run4riverside@gmail.com



Registered entrants are guaranteed a race T-shirt!

Will be yoga, refreshments, music, awards, and door prizes!

Strollers and dogs are welcome

Proceeds will 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.

Registration link @
riversidenaturecenter.org



Riverside Nature Center

150 Francisco Lemos Street Kerrville, TX 78028

The View From Rusty Bend



Summer solstice sunset at Rusty Bend

Attention

*Home defined: the place where you pay attention.
Where you know that swirl in the road
marks the dust bath of a jackrabbit.
Or that a particular Canyon Wren ends
her descending aria with a startling yee-haw.*

*And that on our longest of days,
the sun retires on a noteworthy mound
on the northwest horizon
and begins a steady southern swing
to the little knoll where we will mark its winter twin.*

*Our lives are held in this gentle cup,
palmed in an arc of light.*

The Kindergarten@RustyBend is open for business. Standards of care vary widely, however, according to species. The attentiveness award goes to the papa cardinals. They respond to the “feed me flutter” of the juveniles by careful placement of sunflower seeds in the young ones’ mouths. Later, we observe the papa teaching a seed opening class: banging sunflower seeds apart on the porch rail. He looks at the youngsters as if to say: “See, you can do it!” As the juveniles mature, they go through a ratty color change, looking tie-dyed in shades of red and orange. We also spot them bathing in the dew of thick grass, shouldering through, getting sopping wet and shuddering like puppies.

continued on next page

At the other end of the childcare spectrum, a white-tail doe births twins in the front yard. She promptly gets up and heads across the grass and into some brush. The impulse for the little ones to follow her drives them to their feet. They look like they are made of Pick Up Sticks as they struggle to stand, crumple and fall. They totter after her, umbilicals dragging on the ground. Crash, arise again. Wait for me!

June is also the month when we collect cool spots. One is our front porch before dawn, a place to explore the enchanted space between dark and daylight, taking the time to watch a morning make itself. This space comes with a soundtrack. Birdsongs sound like the tuning of an orchestra. When the House Finch begins with his repetitive riff, it is still full dark. Then, the Chuck-will's-widow sings goodnight from the river. A Painted Bunting claims his castle at the top of the elm tree and belts out his lyrical melody, that "clear, sweet rambling chant" described in the bird book. An elusive White-eyed Vireo chimes in with his husky "Chick! Ticha wee o chick." A very fine way to start the day.

As the morning progresses, we hear juvenile birds learning to sing. Their songs are shortened, or missing notes, especially the Canyon Wrens. Then, as if he has been spending the morning collecting songs, the Mockingbird assumes his position at the top of a tree or the ridge of the roof and gives his rendition of the morning's activities, badly. His version of the Bob White call is comically poor. "Rob, rob rat!"

Observing these nearby creatures is addicting, but we must remember to look up and see far as well. One day, I see the Axis buck that our granddaughters nicknamed Hatrack. His antlers grow larger year by year. They are ridiculously wide. He looks like a chest freezer with a tree attached. I have the urge to salute. I pay attention.

Poem, essay, and images by Lucy Griffith
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Bird reference: The Behavior of Texas Birds,
Kent Rylander, 2002

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.



Snake skeleton

Advanced Training

MONDAY, JULY 25 7PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE

AT16-131 SPIDERS OF CENTRAL TEXAS

Sheryl Smith-Rogers will speak on basic spider biology with a focus on the common spiders that we may find in our yards and around the Hill Country.

TUESDAY, JULY 27 8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, FREDERICKSBURG

AT16-TBA PLANTS WE LOVE AND PLANTS WE HATE

The Fredericksburg chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will present a members forum discussion on excellent--and terrible--plants in the native plant landscape at their regular public meeting. A panel of experienced chapter members will share their enthusiasm and practical knowledge about a few of their favorite native plants. Learn where these plants should be grown, how to make them thrive, and how wildlife makes use of them. Members will also help others avoid or deal with some of the plants they have come to hate in their gardens. This meeting is one of the members' favorites; they look forward to learning successful techniques and are amused by the anecdotal failures and mistakes others have made.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9 9AM-4PM CNC/HERFF FARM, BOERNE

AT16-142 FLYING WILD EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Learn to educate students about the natural world and how they can help to conserve it, using birds as a vehicle. The summer workshops are now taking applications Fee \$30 (includes Educator's Guide). For further information, contact Cindy@cibolonaturecenter.net or Patsy Inglet at tpinglet@satx.rr.com. To register, go to www.ciboloorg.presencehost.net/experience/events/calendar.html/event/2016/08/09/farm-flying-wild-for-educators/122150.

MONDAY, AUGUST 15 8:30-10:30AM HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA, BANDERA

AT16-229 BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Ranger Leanne Beauxbeannes and Texas Master Naturalist Scott Magee lead this guided birding walk for both beginners and experienced birders. Come to learn or teach. Bring binoculars, comfy/sturdy shoes, layered clothing, and water. If you wish, bring a picnic lunch and stay after the walk to enjoy our 5000-acre natural area on your own. Come early to register; regular day-use fees apply: Texas State Park Pass, no charge for everyone in the vehicle; Seniors (65+), \$3 with Bluebonnet Pass; kids 12 and younger, always free. RSVP appreciated; 830-796-4413.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, FREDERICKSBURG

AT16-143 TEXAS HILL COUNTRY PLANTS--MEDICINAL AND EDIBLE

Daneshu Clarke, Master Naturalist, Hill Country herbalist, and edible plant expert, will be the speaker at the monthly meeting of Fredericksburg chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. She will introduce many plants that have been used as food and medicine for centuries. Social gathering at 6:30; program at 7pm.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 8:30-10:30AM HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA, BANDERA

AT16-229 BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Ranger Leanne Beauxbeannes and Texas Master Naturalist Scott Magee lead this guided birding walk for both beginners and experienced birders. Come to learn or teach. Bring binoculars, comfy/sturdy shoes, layered clothing, and water. If you wish, bring a picnic lunch and stay after the walk to enjoy our 5000-acre natural area. Come early to register; regular day-use fees apply: Texas State Park Pass, no charge for everyone in the vehicle; Seniors (65+), \$3 with Bluebonnet Pass; kids 12 and younger, always free. RSVP appreciated; 830-796-4413.

**The newsletter's publication schedule does not allow listing all AT events in each issue.
Check the chapter calendar on our website for additional AT.**



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months at 7:00 PM in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

Join us at 6:30 for our social half-hour.

Everyone is welcome.

Texas Master Naturalist mission:

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

Board of Directors 2016

- Brenda Fest -- President
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- Rheda Boardman -- Secretary
- Diane McMahan -- Treasurer
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- Lisa Flanagan -- Membership Director
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- Diana Armbrust -- 2016 Class Director
- Larry Eskridge-- 2015 Class Representative
- Kathy Ward -- Immediate Past President

The Texas Star is a monthly publication of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. News, essays, comments, and ideas are welcome.

Please email them to:

Lenore Langsdorf, Editor
LenoreLangsdorf@gmail.com

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



Questions about our chapter?

Email Lisa Flanagan,
Membership Director
hillcountrymembership@gmail.com

