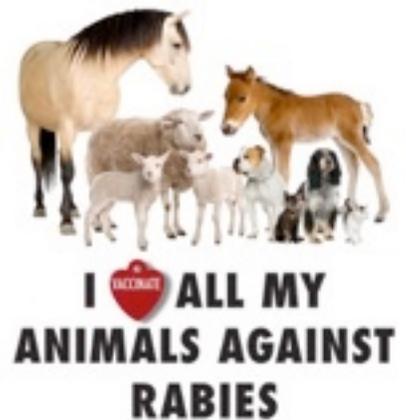


The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

February 2017 Volume 15 Number 2



Boulder County CO image

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



February 27 Meeting: Rabies and Animal Control Practices in Kerr County

Ray Garcia, Director of Kerr County Environmental Health and Animal Services, and Sarah Merritt, Assistant Director, will speak on the agency's practices for rabies and animal control in Kerr County and how citizens can support efforts to combat the disease. The monthly meeting of the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter is 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!

Our mild winter has us anticipating the arrival of spring. The beautiful leaves of the emerging bluebonnets are almost as beautiful as the blooms that will arrive in the spring. Most of our native trees and shrubs are dormant but not for long.

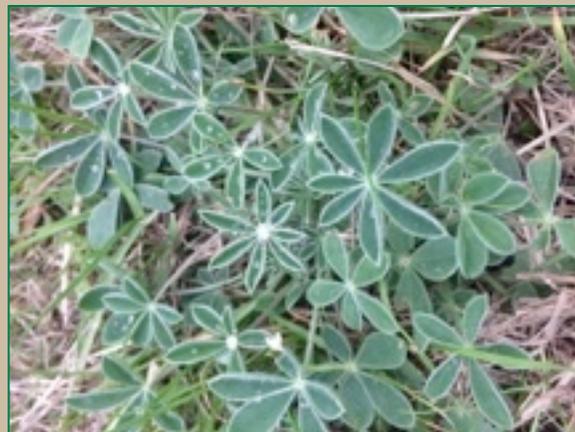
As spring approaches we anticipate many advanced training events and volunteer projects for our participation. Our AT Director, Tom Harrigan, and Volunteer Projects Director, Claire Mitchell, have been busy updating our Hill Country Master Naturalist Calendar. Lots of activities await us. Check out the calendar as events are posted to find something to participate in.

Kathy Ward will be sending out a brief survey to get information from chapter members to assist us in getting ideas on how things are going in our chapter. She will send the survey via email before the next chapter meeting and then provide copies of the survey at this month's chapter meeting. We really appreciate the comments and feedback from our members.

Bridget Langdale has organized a new group: C.A.R.E (Committee to celebrate Awards and promote Retention and increase Engagement). This HCMN group will meet at Mamacita's before the chapter meeting. See her announcement on the next page, and join the group for some socializing and dinner.

I look forward to seeing everyone at this month's chapter meeting when Ray Garcia, Director of Kerr County Environmental Health and Animal Services, and Sarah Marritt, Assistant Director, will be our speakers.

Brenda Fest



This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Teresa Coleman, David Davies, Elsa Roberts

Special Recertification

Randy Fuentes, Paula Harley, Francoise Wilson

2017 Recertification

Tom Harrigan, Tom Riordan

Milestones

Eva Broad, Tom Harrigan, Nina Stieler - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours

Susan McKinley, Evelyn Vittone - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours

Chris Anderson - Gold Dragonfly, 1000 hours

Jane Crone, Brenda Fest - Polished Silver Dragonfly, 2500 hours

Diane McMahon - Ruby Dragonfly, 4000 hours

Social Before the Monthly Meeting

Whether you drive two hours or ten minutes from your home to our monthly meetings, plan on joining other TMN members at Mamacita's (215 Junction Hwy, Kerrville) for a beverage, dinner, and good conversation. Come anytime between 4:30 and 6:15 to meet and visit with other members and discover how you can volunteer with old and new friends.

We will be gathering inside, to your right, in the bar area, which has tables for dining. Your hosts will be Marylein and Cecelia, both members of a new committee called the C.A.R.E. Committee (Awards, Retention, Engagement.) This social time is a way for all members of our chapter to have some additional time to engage with each other. The six members of this committee will be wearing green bandanas. See you there!



Congratulations to members who received awards at the January meeting:

From left to right: Joe Braley, Susan Clark, Lynda Nollcamper, Richard Coleman, Cecilia Fuentes, Paula Harley, Deborah Windham, Tom Harrigan, Greg Walton, Francoise Wilson, Reggie Cox, Glenn Randow, Larry Altman, John Sprowls

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley:

- 1/7/17 Land Fragmentation: Is There Enough Room for All of Us?
- 1/14/17 Balancing Fire Protection and Native Vegetation
- 1/21/17 There is Good Grass Cover This Year
- 1/28/17 Our Native White-Tailed Deer are Resourceful

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

Texas Tech University Outdoor School Volunteer Workshop, Saturday, February 25, 2017... 10am - 1pm

We'll tour the campus, discuss classes offered at the Outdoor School, share various ways Volunteers assist with programs, go over the upcoming Calendar Of Events, and then have lunch. For those who can stay a little longer, after lunch we'll go over to the Native Prairie Garden and do some sculpting.

As a Texas Tech University Outdoor School Volunteer, you will assist TTUJOS instructors with educational activities based on STEM curricula. This includes indoor and outside classrooms, field trips, workshops, community outreach and summer camps. It could also include helping to water, clean, and maintain the Native Prairie Garden here on site where students learn about plants, birds, wildlife, and the importance of water conservation.

It's going to be a FUN FILLED Spring and Summer at Texas Tech University Outdoor School (TTUJOS). If you and/or your friends are interested in making sure our next generation of kids get to enjoy and respect the Great Outdoors as we do, come on out and help us teach them while having fun! The Project Code is : KM-01-B. For further information, contact Koy Coffey, Koycoffer@ttu.edu or 806-834-5625



**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
OUTDOOR SCHOOL**
254 Red Raider Lane
Junction, TX. 76849



Golden-cheeked Warbler
Endangered Species

Experience the Wild Side of
the Texas Hill Country!

Birding for Endangered Species
Nature Talks, Walks & Demonstrations

Bring the whole family for
educational and entertainment
activities focusing on the unique
wildlife features of the
Texas Hill Country

Photo Workshop - Trade Show & More

Black-capped Vireo
Endangered Species

Lady Bird Johnson
Municipal Park is
located three
miles south of
Fredericksburg on
State Highway 16

Set your GPS for:
LAT: 30.2392
LON: -98.9091

Lady Bird Johnson
Municipal Park
Fredericksburg, TX

A Project of the Friends Of Fredericksburg Nature Center

www.wingstx.org

Like us on
Facebook

7th Annual
WINGS
OVER THE
HILLS
Nature Festival
April 28-30, 2017

Special Guest Dorian Anderson
"Biking for Birds"

From Gracie Waggener

Wings Over the Hills Nature Festival

The Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center will be hosting our nature festival again this year on the last weekend in April. This is a great opportunity to explore the nature of the Hill Country with some of the state's top speakers and field trip guides. If your interest is birds, butterflies, dragonflies, bats, bees, or photographing nature, there is a talk or trip for you.

This also is one of the volunteer projects for the chapter. We are looking for volunteers to help with registration, in the speaker venue, merchandise sales, and areas all around the park. That means you can get volunteer and advanced training hours at the same event.

Our guest speaker this year is Dorian Anderson, who has a very interesting talk about his Big Year on a bicycle. He will be leading a bicycle birding trip, a field trip, and a talk at the Saturday night reception.

Look for the registration soon at www.wingstx.org.
To volunteer, send an email to Gracie Waggener gwaggener@flow-apps.com.



Texas Night Sky Festival Will Return March 18, 2017 to Dripping Springs

On Saturday, March 18, 2017, the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) Texas, the City of Dripping Springs, and the Hays County Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist will host the 2nd Annual Texas Night Sky Festival, a free celebration of the Texas Night Sky, at Dripping Springs Ranch Park.

All attendees will join in fun citizen science activities, learn from engaging speakers and exhibits, see examples of good lighting for their homes or businesses, view school projects and competition entries focused on protecting the night sky, feast at the food trucks, take home a book or work of art inspired by the night sky, earn a related scouting badge, or explore the stars.

The intent of the Festival is to increase the appreciation of the night sky and the world around us. This goes hand in hand with increasing awareness about the type of lighting that provides needed light while it reduces glare, saves money, eliminates light trespass, protects the health and safety of living things, and saves our common view of the night sky.

Vendors and exhibitors will be sharing displays and demonstrations related to the night sky, things inspired by the night sky, and how to protect the night sky. Displays of shielded outdoor lighting, light pollution reduction efforts, educational materials about our natural world, literature relating to the night sky, astronomical equipment, and other items relevant to the night sky are just a few of the aspects of the exhibits.

Save the date to join us for a fun family event! If you have any questions, please call 512-858-4725.

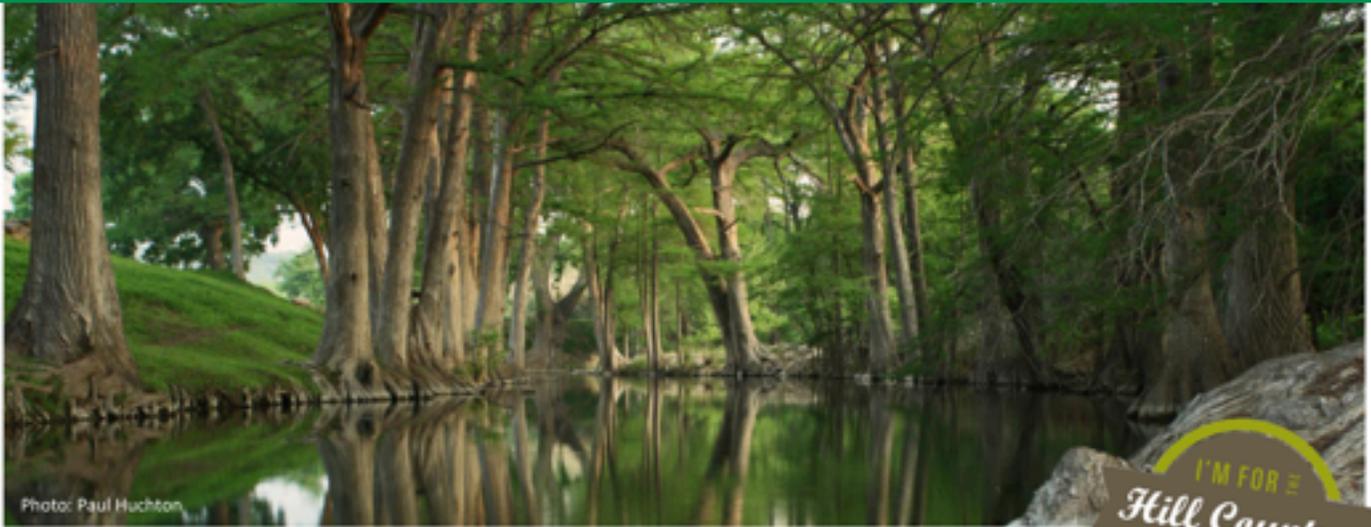


Photo: Paul Huchton



Created through collaboration with: [The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment](#); and in partnership with [Schreiner University](#), [Texas Tech University](#), [Texas Public Radio](#) and [Hill Country Alliance](#)



Watershed Protection Programs: Healthy Waterways at a Community Scale

Water, essential for life, is our most precious and valuable natural resource. But water supply and quality are 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.

Join us as we explore the complex issues and challenges in providing water for Texans in this century.

Each session is free and open to the public. The hour-long program begins at 7:00 pm, followed by discussion time with Q&A. The events are recorded and aired on Texas Public Radio one week later.

Stay informed about future programs by subscribing at www.hillcountryalliance.org

Listen to past shows online at: <http://tpr.org/people/texas-water-symposium>

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Texas State University Student Center LBJ Teaching Theater in San Marcos
Doors open at 6:30, Program 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Parking in the adjacent LBJ parking garage for a nominal fee

Moderator: Dr. Andrew Sansom - Executive Director and Professor of Practice, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment

Panelists:

Mike Bira – Texas Nonpoint Source Program Manager, US-EPA Region 6

Chris Herrington - Water Resource Evaluation Section Manager, City of Austin Watershed Protection Department

Brian Koch - Regional Watershed Coordinator, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Meredith Miller – Watershed Services Program Coordinator, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment

Kerry Niemann – Section Manager, Water Quality Planning Division, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Dianne Wassenich – Program Director, San Marcos River Foundation

With the population of central Texas expected to double in the next twenty years and many Hill Country communities already growing at incredible rates, tremendous pressure is put on the natural resources that we take for granted. Local communities across the region and the state are taking action to protect the local creeks, springs and rivers that we rely on for drinking water, recreation, wildlife habitat, and economic stability.

Join The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas State University Department of Geography, Texas Public Radio, and the Hill Country Alliance as we gather diverse perspectives on the challenges and benefits of Watershed Protection Programs in Texas and abroad -- and the future of Texas water resources.

Spring Native Plant Sale & Earth Day Festival Riverside Nature Center, Kerrville

Saturday, April 22, 2017, 9am - 2pm

Co-sponsored by
Native Plant Society of Texas Kerrville Chapter
and Riverside Nature Center

Native wildflowers, shrubs, grasses, and small trees will be available.

Plants are sourced from local nurseries.

Earn TMN volunteer hours by helping with the event.

Watch for more information in the March and April issues of this newsletter.

The Stars at Night... Commissioners Approve Night Skies Resolution

Jennifer Reiley The Kerrville Daily Times Jan 12, 2017

Kerr County commissioners are in support of protecting the night skies of the Hill Country from light pollution.

Local Realtor Jim Wills and his wife, Kadi, came back to commissioners court Monday with a revised resolution regarding an initiative to help protect the night skies in Kerr County.

Commissioners approved the resolution, which is a non-binding show of support.

Commissioner Tom Moser asked about the wording of part to the resolution, which said the commissioners will help educate the community. "I don't know how we're going to do that," he said.

The Wills clarified that it could be worded so that the commissioners could support education and encourage landowners to learn more about protecting the night skies.

One issue the Wills discussed was certain types of LEDs. While some do not have a negative impact on viewing the night skies, once they get above a certain temperature and intensity, they can create a problem.

"We looked at if we change lightning in the county to LED," Moser said. "We can save \$75,000 a year in electricity costs by going to LED lights over conventional lighting we have now. So if we sign on to something like that, this says we don't want to do that. We don't want to save the taxpayers money?"

Kadi Wills said it's not all LEDs that are the concern. "We are in support of LEDs," she said. "It's more the type of LED that's the concern."

Jim Wills said lighting can have impact not only the view of the night sky but also safety, health and tourism as well.

"People come to the Hill Country and to the Kerrville area to appreciate a number of things; the beauty, a lot of hunting activity, wildlife," he said. "We're getting more and more astronomy buffs."

One benefit of working to fix light pollution, Jim Wills said, is that it is more easily reversed than other kinds of pollution.

Commissioner Harley Belew wanted to clarify that the resolution was voluntary. He said there are many mandates that start out the way this resolution did — with a simple request. Then it becomes a mandate," he said. "Is there a move to take this to the state legislature or anything beyond what we're looking at?"

Wills said not that he was aware of. He said there could be discussion about giving counties other ways to address night skies in the future.

The couple also is meeting with the Kerrville Public Utility Board and plans to revisit with Kerr City Council on the issue as well.

Reprinted courtesy of the Kerrville Daily Times

From Martha Miesch

Learning About Recycling at the Kroc Center After School Program

Betty Clyburn started the discussion of the 4 R's by asking the students to check the items placed on their tables for the recycle symbol on each. With some aid from Master Naturalist volunteers Julie Clay, Chris Lienhard, Martha Miesch, and John Sloan, the symbols were identified.

Then she showed them some great photos of items arranged, with the assistance of Steve Clyburn, to resemble art objects and asked the students to identify what the images were. One picture showed cigarettes stacked in neat rows. Betty mentioned the unhealthy aspect of smoking as well as the litter that covers, and so disrespects, our land. "Don't mess with Texas" was a point well taken. Another picture was of a mass of plastic cups that are used by the thousands. She explained how that usage could be reduced. Another picture identified items that should be recycled, which would minimize the amount that is taken to landfills. Money can be saved if items are reused. It was interesting to watch the students carefully examining the pictures in order to identify the items.

Betty emphasized the 4 R's: recycle, reduce, respect, and reuse. She gave each table a large bag of items suited for recycling and challenged the students to create a costume for one person at their table. They used tape or glue to attach items to a large plastic bag with openings cut for the head and arms. Some created objects that could be reused, such as masks, hats, and weapons.

The students aided in clean-up by taking each item in the mass of recycle materials and placing each in a large sack labeled for paper, plastic, aluminum, etc. Before they left the classroom they were given stickers that serve to remind them of the importance of being responsible citizens by recycling. These educational stickers were donated by David Barrera, the Kerrville Assistant Director of Public Works.



NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, March 7, Patty Leslie Pasztor will speak on the uses of our native plants for food, medicine, fiber, dyes, and basketry.

Socializing at 6:30pm, program at 7pm

Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, our speaker will be Beth McMahon, who will focus on native plant restoration programs in Texas and in the Grand Canyon National Park.

Social at 6:30pm, program at 7pm

Fellowship Hall of Memorial Presbyterian Church
601 North Milam Street, Fredericksburg

NPSOT Kerrville Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, March 14 at 1:30pm, Cathy Downs will be our speaker.

Her talk is entitled "Volunteers as Teachers."

Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville.

All of these programs are free and open to the public.



The View from Rusty Bend



Wintry Guadalupe

January at Rusty Bend is a time of revelation. Winter storms have scrubbed everything bare—of leaves, of color, of warmth. Then, a series of crazy balmy days. Those are confusing. The birds start courting, live oak leaves begin to drop and the agarita plunges heedlessly into spring. We see tom turkeys on the roost at dawn, gobbling energetically and trying to display. Feathers fanned, tottering comically on a cypress limb. Dudes, it's easier on the ground.

Then, small fronts bring back the northerlies. Winter again. Clouds ride the sled of the wind, dragging a blanket of light, brindling the hills with sun. The cold rains slide south to Mexico. These weather changes bring on potent foggy nights. When the moon is full, and the fog is kapok thick—it's as if our little house was stuffed in a pillow of light.

Longer days enlarge the afternoons for wandering. Good weather for paddling. Rogue junipers stand out in their emerald skirts, begging to be lopped and tented for bird hideaways. The cold days invite hunting and the freezer is full of Axis meat and sausages for summer grilling. Bitter cold days bring us inside for raptor spotting, staring at the fire and writing poems.

We keep an ear tuned for migrants. Andy and I look at each other and say: *What's that?* Cedar Wax-wings sound like pennywhistles as they dash madly into the trees. Hundreds of robins carol in the woods. High above and usually invisible, the melancholy bugle of Sandhill Cranes invites us to stop and revel in gratitude.

The real showoff this time of year is the river. As if someone just ran a molten line of mercury between the cypress knees, the river catches light. The water is transparent as an aquarium, revealing fish lolling in their limestone grooves. On cold mornings, the edges are laced with ice. Each frozen bubble a tiny poem.

Growing up, this was the time of year my father would encourage me to “float the river.” Somehow trusting my canoe skills from summer camp, he'd send me off in a wooden pirogue that he had proudly shipped from Louisiana. We christened her *Our Lady of Guadalupe* and I painted her name on the side. We admired that it floated in inches of water. I had an oar with two ends that worked fine but dripped water in my lap. My father would glide me into the shallows, with a cracked white ski belt round my waist, and say: *Have fun. Pick your run. Meet you at the Zoeller Crossing.*

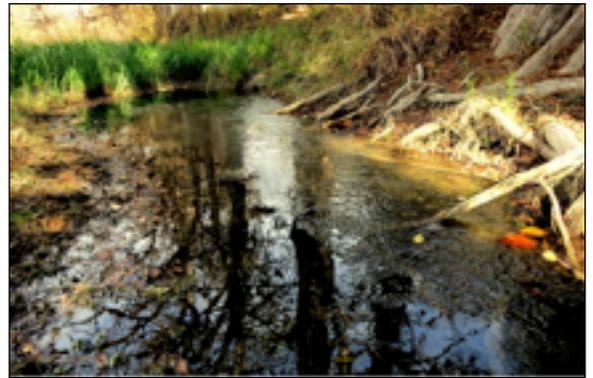
I felt like a Native American girl in my little boat. Wild and free with my braid down my back. I carefully chose the longest V in each rapid. Happy with each clean run, no scraping on the rocks. I saw Wood Ducks in all their finery, dabbling in the shallows. Alligator gar lay huge on the bottom, prehistoric as sturgeons. I followed a Great Blue Heron as she lifted and glided down river before me, like a pewter angel guarding my route. I would lean back and gaze up in the quiet parts. The bare cypress branches arcing over me, cradling a blue winter sky. Dizzying, hypnotic, were they moving or was I?

continued on next page

At last, wet and cold, but confident and accomplished, I came round the bend to the Zoeller bridge. The old rusty Dodge with BIG SKY mudflaps was there, with the tailgate down, my father wearing a fedora, a ratty plaid jacket and a big smile. Love in his eyes, and perhaps a little pride.

Essay and images by Lucy Griffith Copyright 2017

Lucy Griffith, PhD co-manages the Rusty Bend Ranch with her husband, Andy Robinson. She also writes poetry and her muse is a tractor named Ruby. Both Lucy and Andy are certified Master Naturalists from the Class of 2013. Comments are welcome at doctorluz@hctc.net



Icy Guadalupe

From Mary Pearl Meuth



The Texas Master Naturalist 18th Annual Meeting is now accepting proposals for presentations. This year's Annual Meeting will be held October 20, 21, and 22 at the Omni Corpus Christi, overlooking the western shores of the Gulf of Mexico. The Texas Master Naturalist Program welcomes your proposals as contributions to our agenda.

Individuals wishing to present are invited to submit their proposal on the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting Call for Proposals website: <http://www.regonline.com/TXMN2017CallforProposals> .

Special topics on which we hope to have presentations include developing and utilizing social media resources; non-game species and the roles they play in conservation across the state; engaging diverse audiences in the Master Naturalist programs as members and as an audience; leadership skills for managing groups of volunteers when conflicts arise; and the shared roles of hunters and recreational natural resource users in the larger plan for conservation.

The deadline for submissions is Thursday June 1, 2017. Don't forget to log your submission on our website: <http://www.regonline.com/TXMN2017CallforProposals> .

More information about this year's Annual Meeting can be found on our website at <http://txmn.org/2017-annual-meeting/>. Registration details will be coming this summer. Guidelines for submitting a proposal can be found on the Texas Master Naturalist website. Please direct questions about the Texas Master Naturalist 18th Annual Meeting to Michelle Haggerty (mmhaggerty@tamu.edu) or Mary Pearl Meuth (mpmeuth@tamu.edu).

Advanced Training

MONDAY, FEB. 20 8:30-10:30AM HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA, BANDERA
AT17-060 BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Ranger Leanne Beauxbeannes and Texas Master Naturalist Scott Magee lead this guided birding walk for both beginners and experienced birders. 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; ages 12 and younger, always free.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23 1-2PM WEBINAR
AT17-057 MONARCH CONSERVATION SEMINAR

Rich Dolesh (Natural Recreation and Park Association) will present information on designing and creating outdoor signs for monarch waystations and pollinator gardens. To register, go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbjq1Y7S1clvM1AYTEgxd5F8SrtPdOWWBnD0K7-ah6_oueQg/viewform?c=0&w=1.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23 10AM-12PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE
AT17-054 NEST BOX MONITORING WORKSHOP

Dick Park, local birder and land owner, and Donna Taylor, environmental scientist, will identify common birds that use nest boxes and teach monitors how to determine which species are using their nest boxes, how to count and scientifically document egg and hatchling numbers and how to predict hatch dates and fledge dates. Suggested Donation: \$10 To register, contact Donna Taylor, donna@cibolo.org or 830-3331-8992.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23 1-2PM WEBINAR
AT17-039 INTRODUCTION TO PLANT IDENTIFICATION

This webinar provides a basic understanding of plant ecology and a framework for determining the identity of plants. The instructor is Ricky Linx, Wildlife Biologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The website is <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/introduction-to-plant-identification>.

FRIDAY, FEB. 24 3-4PM KERR WMA IN THE BASS CENTER, 2625 FM 1340, HUNT
AT17-015 NEW MONARCH MONITORING PROJECT INITIAL MEETING

Join this first meeting to plan the new monarch monitoring project, orient new volunteers to the Kerr Wildlife Management Area property, and plan locations for monitoring stations. This training is limited to volunteers participating in this KWMA project. There is a MLMP training on March 16 for monarch lovers who haven't had the MLMP training yet or those who need a refresher.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25 8AM-4PM LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER, 3801 LACROSSE AVE., AUSTIN
AT17-031 NPSOT SPRING SYMPOSIUM

Online registration is now open; go to <http://npsot.org/sp/story/2016/9491> for information. Registration includes entrance to the gardens and a boxed lunch. Cost: \$55 per person, or \$50 for NPSOT members and members of the Wildflower Center.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25 9AM-12PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE
AT17-053 ATTRACTING BIRDS WORKSHOP

Dick Park will speak on techniques that have resulted in over 190 species of birds recorded at a single home. You will be shown how you can attract nesting, migrating and wintering birds. Cost: Members \$20; Non-Members \$25. Contact Ben Eldredge, ben@cibolo.org or 830-249-4616 for further information.

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

MONDAY, FEB. 27 7PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE**AT17-052 RABIES AND ANIMAL CONTROL**

Ray Garcia, the Director of Kerr County Environmental Health and Animal Services, and Sarah Merritt, Assistant Director, will speak at the monthly chapter meeting on the agency's practices for rabies and animal control in Kerr County and how citizens can support efforts to combat the disease.

TUESDAY, FEB. 28 6:30-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, FREDERICKSBURG**AT17-028 NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION**

Beth McMahon, Gillespie County Horticulture Agent, will speak at the monthly meeting of the NPSOT Fredericksburg chapter on the successes and failures of parallel native plant restoration programs in Texas and in the Grand Canyon National Park. The meeting will begin with refreshments and a social gathering at 6:30 p.m., followed by the program at 7:00.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2 4-5PM 251 LOST OAK, JUST OFF PURPLE SAGE RD., BANDERA**AT17-067 TREE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION**

This will be an opportunity for those with fruit trees, blackberries and grape vines to watch a hands on demonstration that will enable managing an orchard or backyard peach tree with confidence. Please RSVP by contacting 830-796-7755 or Bandera-TX@tamu.edu .

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 9AM-12PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE**AT17-055 BIRDING SKILLS WORKSHOP**

Bill and Patsy Inglet will present the techniques that have helped them progress from amateur to expert birders. Cost: members, \$20; non-members, \$25. To register, go to <https://ciboloorg.presencehost.net/experience/events/calendar.html/event/2017/03/04/cnc-birding-skills-workshop/144652> .

TUESDAY, MARCH 7 - THURSDAY, MARCH 9 1 NRG PARKWAY, HOUSTON**AT17-046 2017 RANCHING AND WILDLIFE EXPO EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS**

For specific information on the seminars, go to <http://www.rodeohouston.com/Portals/0/Content/VisitShow/Attractions/RanchingWildlifeExpo/Downloads/2017RanchingWildlifeSchedule.pdf?ver=2017-01-24-153051-657> .

TUESDAY, MARCH 7 6:30-8PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE**AT17-049 NATIVE AMERICAN AND PIONEER USES OF PLANTS**

Patty Leslie Pasztor, former Horticulturalist for the Native Plants area at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens, Park Naturalist at Friedrich Wilderness Park, and co-author (with Paul Cox) of *Texas Trees – A Friendly Guide*, will be the speaker at the monthly meeting of the NPSOT Boerne chapter.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 9AM-3PM WACO CONVENTION CENTER, 100 WASHINGTON AVENUE, WACO**AT 17-042 BLUEBIRD SEASON KICKOFF**

The Texas Bluebird Society, an all-volunteer grassroots organization, will show how to help bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds by increasing nesting sites while sustaining and increasing their food supply. To register, go to www.txblues.org/2017event .

MONDAY, MARCH 27 7PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE**AT17-TBA RESTORATION AGRICULTURE:**

Ben Eldredge, Director of Education at the Cibolo Nature Center, will speak at the monthly chapter meeting on using agriculture to create habitat instead of destruction.

**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 2017

- Brenda Fest -- President
- Craig Childs -- Vice President
- Kris Bobbitt-- Secretary
- Ann Dietert -- Treasurer
- Tom Harrigan -- Advanced Training Director
- David Davies -- Communications Director
- Lisa Flanagan -- Membership Director
- Claire Mitchell -- Volunteer Service Projects Director
- Reggie Cox -- 2017 Class Director
- Paula Harley -- 2016 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

