

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

May 2017 Volume 15 Number 5

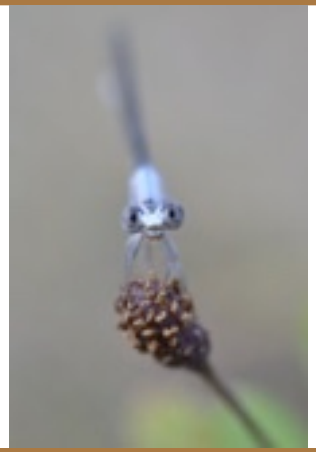


photo by Craig Hensley

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



May 22 Meeting: Damsels and Dragons: An Introduction to the Odonates

Interpreter and Naturalist Craig Hensley from Guadalupe River State Park will introduce these fascinating, diverse, and important master predators found in the Hill Country.

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!

As spring continues we are reminded of the natural beauty in our Hill Country. Amidst the wildflowers, the bees and butterflies are feeding and pollinating. The birds are making nests; the deer, rabbits and other mammals are raising their young. The abundant food supply allows for this cycle to continue. As much as I love watching butterflies I also realize that they too can become part of the food chain. My husband, Gary, tells me that he just saw an ash throated flycatcher eat a red admiral butterfly. She'll feed this to her young to help them grow and fledge.



Our bird boxes have been very active this spring. Several clutches of birds--Ash-throated Flycatchers, Black-crested titmice and Bewick's Wrens--have already fledged. No bluebirds in the nest boxes this year but I saw a painted bunting at our bird bath. I am so grateful to get such a great view of this beautiful bird. Milkweed pods have formed. Now we wait for them to ripen so we can harvest some seeds to send to Monarch Watch to add to their seed bank.



Our Hill Country Chapter is always so busy this time of the year. The possible volunteer projects and advanced training are endless. Get out there and enjoy!

We are still accepting applications for our fall training class. Deadline is June 30.

Join us at our May 22 chapter meeting to hear Craig Hensley from Guadalupe River State Park present "Damsels and Dragons, OH MY: An Introduction to the Odonates".

Brenda Fest

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Cathy Binney, Ron Scoggins

Special Recertification

Teresa Coleman

Recertification

Diana Armbrust, Heather Barnes, Jim Bobbitt, Karen Burkett, Ginny de Wolf, Brenda Fest, Eileen Gotke, Bob Hansen, Kay Harter, Myrna Langford, Pam Lienhard, Sandra Magee, Barbara Marquer, Robin May, Susan McKinley, Barbara Oates, Nancy Person, Bobbin Phelps-Gredell, Clarence Reed, Floyd Trefny, Karla Trefny, Evelyn Vittone, John Walker, Marion Worthington

Milestones

Barbara Jansen, Chris Lienhard - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours
Tom Harrigan - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours
Gary Fest, Ann Schneider -Gold Dragonfly, 1000 hours
Floyd Trefny - President's Volunteer Service Award, 4000 hours



Congratulations to members who received awards at the April meeting:

Lisa Flanagan, Jim Stanley, Russell Vowell, Debbie Windham, Ric McCormick, Martha Miesch, Craig Childs, Diane McMahon, David Davies, Dale Bransford, Paul Unger, Richard Coleman, Jill Bowen, Tom Collins, Cecilia Fuentes, Joyce Studer, Ann Dietert, John Sloan, Claire Mitchell, Gary Fest



Mike Foulds, Craig Childs, Rose Ellis, and John Walker received their Milestone pins at the April meeting.



Stephen Bishop received his Milestone pin from Michelle Haggerty at the April meeting.

From Larry Eskridge

Kerrville-Schreiner Butterfly Garden Update

Rescue may be on the horizon for bringing the KSP Butterfly Garden back to a presentable, welcoming environment. Over the past month more volunteers have appeared and through their efforts we have greatly improved the condition and appearance of the garden. The parking area has been full of volunteer vehicles, or nearly so, on a couple of occasions. But there is room for more volunteers!

Most of the Vetch, Beggar's tick and other early season noxious plants have been removed along with some of the dogwood. However we still have areas of invasive dogwood that need to be removed. That is a slow process because we are attempting to make the removal as permanent as possible – not just cut and wait for it to re-grow. Paths have been temporarily cleared and longer-term clearing efforts are underway; additionally, clean up around the exterior of the garden has taken place.

A month ago the Garden needs appeared almost overwhelming, but the efforts of the folks who have shown up have been intense, focused, and productive. To all the KSP Butterfly Garden workers of the past month: your efforts are greatly appreciated and “Bravo Zulu” (Navy Signal Flag message for “WELL DONE!”). Become part of the team and join us on Thursday mornings at 8:30. (As the weather warms we will start at 8:00.)

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley:

4/1/2017	Trees—Special Parts of Our Lives
4/8/2017	Spring in the Hill Country
4/15/2017	Owls—Fascinating Creatures
4/22/2017	Buckeyes—An Interesting Group of Plants
4/29/2017	Twenty Years in the Life of a Spanish Oak

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



Members are welcome and encouraged to attend and contribute to Board of Directors meetings. The Board will meet this month at the Riverside Nature Center at 2:30 on Monday, May 22.

From Tom Collins



Love Creek Butterfly Count

The Great Love Creek Butterfly Count will be June 1. For the past few years this has been one of the top counts in Texas and was third in the United States two years ago. The count circle includes The Nature Conservancy Love Creek Preserve, Medina Native Plant Nursery, and many ranches to which we have been granted access. You don't have to know anything about butterflies, as we need spotters as well and you will begin to learn species in the field with knowledgeable butterfly folks.

There is a \$3 fee to participate unless we find a sponsor this year.

We meet at 8am in the Core Coffee Shop in Medina for breakfast (no costs to you) and divide into teams, departing around 8:30. The count will end around 2:30 pm and we will gather at the Apple Store for lunch and to conduct an initial count of species seen. We need folks who like to do nature photography as well, as photos help confirm difficult species to identify.

If you are interested, contact me at towhee@hctc.net or Rebecca Neill at rebecca.neill@TNC.ORG.



photos by Tom Collins

Riverside Nature Center
presents
**MEDICINE BLUFF
HOME TOUR**
and
**Observation of Blue
Heron Rookery on
Johnson Creek**




SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017
10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.
1:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M.

Tickets: \$10 per person; \$15 per couple

Tour sizes are limited & tickets must be purchased by 5:00 p.m. Friday May 19th from Riverside Nature Center.
Guests are welcome to car pool from Riverside Nature Center

You are invited to tour this property with Rick & Stephanie Ertel, whose off-grid home features:

- *Passive solar power system*
- *Rainwater catchment water supply*
- *Heat and energy for cooking from wood stoves*
- *Sustainable materials and finishes:*
 - ICF walls*
 - Reclaimed wood ceilings*
 - Ash/juniper pillars*
 - American Clay plaster wall finishes*

Construction was completed in November, 2008 and has served as the Ertel's residence since March 2009.

Architect: Steve Lochte, Lochte Architectural Group, San Francisco, CA

Builder: David Franks, Sierra Homes, Fredericksburg, TX

For more information, come to or call Riverside Nature Center (830)257-4837

The contemporary-styled Ertel home is situated on 56 acres of land, off Highway 27, 10 miles west of Ingram. It is rated LEED Platinum by the U.S. Green Building Council and was recognized with a Gold Award for the custom/hot climate category in the National Association of Homebuilders Energy Value Home competition in 2010.

NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, June 6, We will have a potluck dinner at 6:30pm. Announcement of winners of the "Texas Native Plant Youth Photo Contest" will take place in the patio at 6 pm. Members and guests are invited to vote on their favorite photo for the "People's Choice Award" from 5 to 6pm
Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne

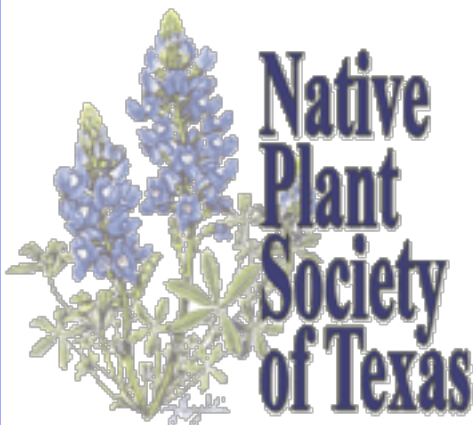
NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, May 23, Dr. Ben Hutchins, TPWD, State Invertebrate Biologist, will speak on "Managing Private Lands for Pollinators" Social at 6:30pm, program at 7pm
Fellowship Hall of Memorial Presbyterian Church
601 North Milam Street, Fredericksburg

NPSOT Kerrville Chapter Monthly Meeting

For our last meeting of the season, we had a field trip on Tuesday, May 9. Regular monthly notices will resume prior to our next meeting in September.

These programs are free and open to the public.



From Thomas Redwine

A Day at Lost Maples State Natural Area

First, I want to thank everyone involved in making the May 3, 2017 event at Lost Maples SNA a success! And, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the presenters-- Sage Austin, Sally Garrett, Lee Haile, Sky Jones Lewey, Jim Stanley, and Greg Walton--for their time, dedication, and support of LMSNA..

Though rain forecasts threatened the day, weather within the box canyons of LMSNA is often independent of the surrounding area. This factor plays into the many complex ecosystems contained within the canyons of Lost Maples. The day was remarkable, not just for the cooperative weather, but also for the enthusiasm and passion of everyone in attendance.

In 1978 Lost Maples was dedicated as the very first of many State Natural Areas in Texas. Its location has been both a benefit and a curse, because land development surrounding the park is slow in assisting our efforts to conserve the area and the Dark Sky above. Also, our distance from metropolitan areas limits the volunteer contingent from which to pull. When my spouse, Colette Nicholl, and I became Hill Country Texas Master Naturalists (Class of 2016), we became aware that the passion and knowledge base of Master Naturalists may be the park's greatest hope and resource for the future.

Shawn Greene, Park Superintendent at LMSNA for the last seven years, is excited about the budding relationship with the Hill Country chapter and is appreciative of everyone's interest and involvement in this event. He looks forward to being of assistance in all future AT and volunteer events. The park especially is in need of flora and fauna surveys. Please contact Greg Walton (gregwalton12345@gmail.com) or me (thomas.redwine@gmail.com) regarding getting survey efforts underway.

The Friends of Lost Maples (FoLM) was formally formed in June of 2016. We are a Board of up to nine members seeking to help conserve LMSNA through our interpretive programs and volunteer efforts within the park. We hope to soon submit our lengthy 501(c)(3) designation application to the IRS so that we may apply independently for grants to support and develop conservation and interpretive programs in the park.

Our current projects include:

Planting 60 juvenile Uvalde Bigtooth Maples in exclosures throughout the more public areas of the park in a beginning effort to replace and protect seedlings that often are foraged by the park's thriving wildlife.

Invasive species removal efforts are ongoing and include Elephant Ear removal. Contact Greg Walton or me regarding upcoming dates if you are interested in helping while earning volunteer hours.

Dark Sky Star Party events are held throughout the year in partnership with astronomical organizations and astrophysicists. The remaining dates confirmed for 2017--all on Saturdays--are June 24, August 12, August 19, September 23, October 21, November 18, and December 16.

Upcoming projects include the restoration of the areas to the north of the "Pond" to include water force reduction and manage erosion. This effort will include soil replacement and understory restoration. We estimate that it will take a decade.

One thing I have to come to grips with is that nature moves at its own pace. I have to understand that I will not likely be around to see the delight in children's eyes as they enjoy the results of our efforts as Master Naturalists in the decades to come. As I tell people who ask, everything we do is for the children's children's children. Come help us work toward the future of a very special set of canyons deep in the heart of our beloved Hill Country!

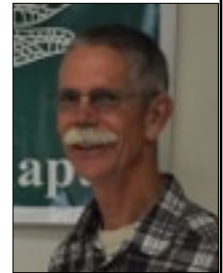
From Bridget Langdale

Milestone Highlights:
Notes On Contributions of Chapter Members Who Reached Milestones This Year



Larry Altman is a member of the Class of 2014 who has contributed more than 500 volunteer hours. that were earned primarily through his volunteering at the Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville. He works at the front desk, answers phones, welcomes visitors, and answers questions or finds someone who can. Also, he works at special events such as the plant sales and the 5-K Walk/Run. He especially enjoys Advance Trainings, which provide continued learning about the environment.

Chris Anderson, a member of the Class of 2014, has contributed over 1000 Volunteer Hours. He is an interpreter at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area who has explained the area's geology and plants to as many as 210 visitors in one day. He is President of the Fredericksburg Native Plant Society, which maintains gardens at the NPSOT State headquarters, the Fredericksburg Post Office, and the Pioneer Museum, holds annual native plant sales, and has begun a Community Education Program at the high school.



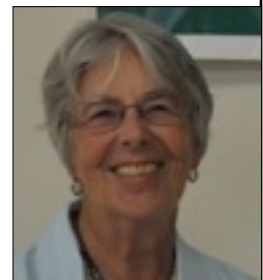
Stephen Bishop is a member of the Class of 2011 who has contributed more than 5000-volunteer hours. He monitors rivers with the Texas Stream Team and measures and records data of rainfall through CoCoRaHS. His organizational skills have assisted in the joining of the Western Edwards Plateau Chapter to the Hill Country Chapter. Stephen also worked on the initial surveys of geology, water testing, and game data at the Albert & Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area (ABK), and has been a member of the Hill Country Chapter board.

Craig Childs is a retired pathologist who is a member of the Class of 2015 and has contributed over 250 volunteer hours. His pathology skills have enabled him to assist a wildlife biologist with research and documentation of chronic wasting disease in white tail deer. He has also enjoyed learning about and documenting native plants, water resources, and the local geology at a variety of locations. Currently, he is a member of the Hill Country Chapter board.



Tony Cieszkiewicz, a member of the Class of 2015, has contributed more than 500 volunteer hours, primarily at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. He is usually found engaging in cedar management and also assists with other maintenance. As a member of the 2017 Class Committee, he served as their primary photographer. He is especially interested in the process of making soil through sequestering 1-ton/acre/year of atmospheric carbon by restoring the tilth to the soil.

Jane Crone is a member of the Class of 2002--the first Hill Country Chapter class, which she was instrumental in establishing. She has contributed more than 2500 hours through volunteering as a birder and member of the Native Plant Society of Texas in Fredericksburg. At Cibolo Nature Center she has worked on setting up a variety of nature stations for third graders and in maintaining bird feeding areas. She was one of the organizers of, and volunteers at, the Wings Over The Hills event.



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Milestone Highlights, continued



Rose Ellis, a member of the Class of 2014, has contributed over 1000 hours. In the past she's volunteered at several sites, including the Bat Tunnel and NPSOT events. Currently, however, she is fully occupied as an interpreter at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, where staffing shortages have led to the need for more Master Naturalist volunteers. She gives interpretive talks up on the 425 foot granite batholith and along the 11 miles of hiking trails.

Mike Foulds, a member of the Class of 2010, has contributed over 1000 hours in citizen science projects that work toward preserving our natural resources through a variety of activities at Cibolo Nature Center, the Albert & Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area, and Muleshoe Farm & Ranch Trust. He has assisted, in all of those sites, with bird surveys, nest box monitoring, and rookery monitoring. He also works on riparian assessment projects at area streams..



Brenda Fest is a member of the Class of 2014 who has contributed more than 2500 hours. She volunteers at the Cibolo Nature Center, the Albert & Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area, the Bandera Natural History Museum Garden, and the Native Plant Society of Boerne. She has been on the NPSOT board for two years, was Class of 2015 Director, President of our chapter last year, and is the current President. Monarch butterfly education may be her favorite activity. She is a member of the National Butterfly Association and is active in the Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project at Kerr Wildlife Area and at her homestead property.

Tom Harrigan is a member of the Class of 2016 who has contributed more than 250 hours through participating in the Hill Country Archeology Association, including serving on their board and working on local sites. He records surveys, bird counts, snakes, butterflies, and geology findings. at the Albert & Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area. At the Cibolo Nature Center, Tom assists with Texas Stream Team monitoring along with feeding the turtles and birds, and does general ground maintenance at the visitor center and trails.



Bridget Langdale, a member of the Class of 2014, has contributed over 500 hours with a focus on Dark Skies education--which involves explaining the scientific and safety values of modified lighting practices and the equipment that furthers that aim. She also works on projects concerned with the quality of our river water and quantity of rain, and reports on both to regional and national databases. A further interest is promoting native grasses and forbs. She has served on the chapter board and currently chairs a chapter committee.

Susan McKinley is a member of the Class of 2014 who has contributed more than 500 hours, primarily at the Riverside Nature Center. She works in the Meadows (the garden area) doing ground maintenance, assists at the annual plant sale, and leads field trips. Each spring all the fourth graders in Kerrville come to RNC for a day, during which she assists in their learning about nature--including water, soil, predatory small mammals, and native plants. Susan also is involved with the Native Plant Society of Kerrville's demonstration garden, which emphasizes using native plants in home landscapes.



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Milestone Highlights, continued



Diane McMahon is a member of the Class of 2005 who has contributed more than 4000 hours. Many of those hours are due to twelve years as a volunteer at Old Tunnel State Park. Also, she assists in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Board office and participates in the UGRA water quality evaluation program each summer. She has served on the chapter board, including three years as Treasurer, and serves on the board of the City of Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department.

Nina Stieler, a member of the Class of 2013, has contributed more than 250 hours of volunteer time, primarily at the Cibolo Nature Center. On Wednesday and Thursday of each week she presents nature box demonstrations at one of the six elementary schools in the Boerne area. She also enjoys doing bird counts. As a citizen scientist she counts snakes, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, and checks the water quality in the local river.



Evelyn Vittone was a member of the Gulf Coast Chapter for several years and transferred to the Hill Country Chapter when she moved in 2013 to family property near Utopia. She has contributed over 500 hours. In Houston she volunteered at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center as a facilitator and naturalist on the trails for K-5 field trips. As a member of this chapter, she volunteers in the outdoor classroom at Cibolo Nature Center and with the Nature Box program in Boerne classrooms.

John Walker is a member of the Class of 2012 who has contributed over 1000 hours through his work at the Cibolo Nature Center and the Albert & Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area. He teaches in the outdoor classroom at Cibolo Nature Center, does prairie, reptile, and bird surveys, creates bird nesting boxes, and teaches about small mammals by using a collection of skulls. At ABK, he has assisted in historical geology, fossils, and bird surveys.



Debbie Windham is a member of the Class of 2015 who has contributed more than 500 hours through her participation in the Kerrville Native Plant Society of Texas, in the seed gleaning project at the Riverside Nature Center, and at the Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, where she cut cedar, marked and improved hiking trails, and assisted in building a new campsite for the volunteers who come to the park. Also, as a member of the 2016 Class Committee, she contributed to the smooth functioning of each week's class.

UGRA Volunteer Summer Study

Volunteers collect water samples for bacteria analysis from the Guadalupe River or a tributary in Kerr County and bring the samples in to UGRA for bacteria analysis. The program will run from the first week of June through the end of August. Volunteers can submit samples no more than once a week and can choose how many weeks they would like to participate. See <http://www.ugra.org/vstudy.html> for more information on the program and contact Tara at tbushnoe@ugra.org to sign up.

From Martha Miesch

Learning About Spring Bloomer Native Plants at the Kroc Nature Program



Each of our Master Naturalist volunteers selected one or more current native plant bloomers and brought a cutting of a bloomer to show the students and tell them some distinctive features of the plant that described its merits or undesirable traits, such as being invasive. They also described the usual setting of many of the plants. Teresa Coleman, Chris Lienhard, Pam Lienhard, Martha Miesch, Clarence Reed, and John Sloan showed their examples and passed them around to be examined closely.

Previous to the students' arrival, the volunteer team walked around the grounds and found almost all of the bloomer examples that they had brought, with the exception of Beggar's Tick, Texas Thistle, and Poverty Bush. They told the students that Poverty Bush could easily be seen across the street from the Kroc main building. Some had noticed Beggar's Tick and Thistles along the roadsides; those seem to be prolific bloomers this year.



The students enthusiastically broke into small groups, each with a Master Naturalist guide, and spent several minutes looking in the grasses near the classroom for examples of the bloomers they had been shown. Along with the notes that many took in the classroom, and thanks to our team's work of educating young people about native plants, the students left with some knowledge of spring native plant bloomers.

photos by Clarence Reed

From Gracie Waggener

Hill Country Chapter Members



Spring is here, and it is time for new merchandise!

There is a new padfolio for calendars, notepads, name tags, business cards and all those things needed on a daily basis, whether at home or on the road.



Also, new styles of polo shirts for both men and women, and new color caps. And an up-graded window decal for the new car or truck is a "must".

Be sure to stop by the Chapter Merchandise table at the May meeting to check it all out!

The View From Rusty Bend



April fog crawls in at dawn

Bird Wisdom

*Spotted Towhee has arrived.
Class is in session.
In her dark hoodie, flashing
flamboyant rufous sides,
she teaches first that edges are safest.
Boogying in the birdbath
or rustling in a shower of dew,
she takes her pleasures.*

*Hop in,
hop back.
Stop and stare.*

*A feathered instruction book for life:
Dance when you can.
Sometimes a spit bath is just right.
Remember to hit the pause button.
Put your whole self in—
if it's not for you,
put your whole self out. And
when you get stuck,
heavens, turn yourself around.*

*Zen from a bird:
That's what it's all about.*

Cool April mornings at Rusty Bend birth creamy ground fogs. For hours we watch as they drift, slowly swallowing the valley nestled in the river's bend. Gobbling the high railroad bridge, frosting the freshly leafed mesquites, then rolling down the river bottom to enfold the pecans and cypresses before cozying up against the cliff right below us.

The cool air feeds the fog. Fitting, because April days are filled with feeding. A male Cardinal, in his finest ruby shirt, waits on the railing for his beloved with a perfect sunflower seed. She glides in, he offers, she turns, he offers again, she departs with a tail flick. He does a little wing shrug, then flips it up, and eats it himself.

We spy a tailless titmouse, a favorite snack of Cooper's Hawks. He must have gotten off easy. We see other raptors carrying food to their nests. As the babies get bigger, so does the cargo. First small birds and lizards, then snakes drape from the undercarriage on the way to raucous, squawking babies.

I get up earlier and earlier so as not to miss anything. Birdsong starts before dawn. It surges and grows until it sounds like not just one, but several orchestras warming up at once. The Canyon Wrens serenade constantly, a slow piccolo. Their nest on the porch rafter is busy as a train station. Mama and Papa run the Bugs for Babies route, ferrying bugs down to dusk. As the nestlings get bigger, the parents seem exhausted, panting on the wood pile between shuttles.

One morning a fledging bounces right in front of me on the porch, a parent close behind, keeping watch. Within ten minutes all five Canyon Wren nestlings have fledged onto the porch, then the yard, then the bushes. With no beak or tail to speak of they look like five balls of rust-colored feathers floating hither and yon. Landing skills need work.

That evening an unwelcome raccoon pulls down the empty nest. Hoping for a Canyon Wren omelet to feed her young ones? Ha, no joy.

Poem, essay and image 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 welcome at doctorluz@hctc.net

Advanced Training

TUESDAY, MAY 16 8AM-4PM TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY CENTER, FREDERICKSBURG

AT17-147 TEXAS RIPARIAN & STREAM ECOSYSTEM WORKSHOP

The workshop will include both indoor classroom presentations and an outdoor field portion on the Pedernales River, to discover how it functions and the role of riparian vegetation in properly functioning systems. For more information, contact Nikki Dickson at 979-575-4424 or ndictson@ag.tamu.edu .

THURSDAY, MAY 18 7:30AM-1PM TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE CENTER, UVALDE (1619 GARNER FIELD ROAD)

AT17-140 COMBINED VEGETABLE AND WHEAT FIELD DAY

To RSVP and for more information, contact Liza Silva at lsilva@ag.tamu.edu or 830-278-9151 ext. 232 or Christine Thompson at cwthompson@ag.tamu.edu or 830-278-9151 ext. 231 .

FRIDAY, MAY 19 11AM-12:30PM WEBINAR

AT17-152 RESEARCH ON EAGLE IMPACT MINIMIZATION TECHNOLOGIES

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently allocated more than \$3 million across six institutions to support research into technologies to minimize eagle impacts from wind turbines, with the goal of facilitating the development of clean energy infrastructure that keeps wildlife safe. This webinar will feature overviews of all selected research projects, including explorations into how to create more effective deterrents and testing and evaluation of existing and newly emerging detection and deterrent technologies.

(To learn more about the projects--3 Ways Energy Department Research Will Help Eagles Coexist with Wind Energy Deployment--and for more information, go to <https://energy.gov/eere/articles/3-ways-energy-department-research-will-help-eagles-coexist-wind-energy-deployment> .) To register, go to <https://www.nationalwind.org/may-19-nwcc-webinar-research-on-eagle-impact-minimization-technologies/>.

FRIDAY, MAY 19 8:30AM-3:30PM KERR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, HUNT

AT17-119 SPRING RANGE AND WILDLIFE FIELD DAY

Cost is \$20/person; includes lunch and educational materials. Register, with name and phone number, by May 12; call 830-896-4911 ext 3 or go to deanna@kerrcountyswcd.com .

SATURDAY, MAY 20 8AM-4PM TYE PRESTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, CANYON LAKE (16311 S. ACCESS ROAD

AT17-065 LEVEL 1, INTRODUCTION TO NATIVE LANDSCAPES

The Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) is a series of day-long classes that teaches best practices for native plant landscaping. Each level presents 45 recommended native Texas plants and 5 invasive plants to avoid. Registration fee is \$37. Go to <http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/contact/> for more information; to register, go to <https://s08.123signup.com/event/registration/npkfz> .

SATURDAY, MAY 20 10-11AM & 1-2PM (2 TOURS) MOUNTAIN HOME

AT17-151 MEDICINE BLUFF HOME TOUR & OBSERVATION OF GREAT BLUE HERON ROOKERY

Rick & Stephanie Ertel will lead this tour of their off-grid home that sits on 56 acres above Johnson Creek near Mountain Home. Participants will be able to observe a great blue heron rookery and learn some of the habits of this magnificent bird. Tours are limited to 20 people and reservations are required. Tickets are \$10/person; \$15/couple, and must be purchased in advance at Riverside Nature Center.

SUNDAY, MAY 21 10AM-12PM HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA, BANDERA

AT17-129 WALK WITH NATURE/TALK WITH A RANGER

Ranger Leanne Beauxbeannes will present samples of usable and edible plants of the Texas Hill Country in an outdoor setting near headquarters. No hiking. Dress appropriately for the weather. Arrive early enough to register before the 10 o'clock starting time. Day-use fees apply; bring a picnic and stay all day on your own if you wish. RSVP is always appreciated; call 830-796-4413.

MONDAY, MAY 22 10AM-12PM HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA, BANDERA

AT17-129 WALK WITH NATURE/TALK WITH A RANGER

This is a repeat of yesterday's talk; see above for details.

MONDAY, MAY 22 7PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE

AT17-TBA INTRODUCTION TO THE ODONATES

Craig Hensley will be the speaker at the chapter monthly meeting.

TUESDAY, MAY 23 8AM-3PM ALBERT & BESSIE KRONKOSKY STATE NATURAL AREA, PIPE CREEK (ABK)

AT17-122 FERAL HOG MANAGEMENT: A HOLISTIC APPROACH

ABK is not yet open to the public and is in the planning and development phase, including a comprehensive feral hog management program. Participants will learn about the "tools" available to Texans for hog control and how to develop a strategy focused on recovery and protection of sensitive ecosystems. They will also learn of volunteer opportunities at ABK-SNA. Registration is required and limited to 30 participants. Contact Craig Childs by May 17 at 210-286-2674 or craig.c.childs@gmail.com. Fee, \$10, including lunch. All proceeds beyond expenses will be donated to the Friends of ABK (<https://friendsofabksna.wordpress.com>).

TUESDAY, MAY 23 6:30-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, FREDERICKSBURG

AT17-141 MANAGING PRIVATE LANDS FOR POLLINATORS

Dr. Ben Hutchins, TP&W, will focus at the Native Plant Society of Texas Fredricksburg chapter's monthly meeting on the important steps landowners can take to attract and maintain healthy pollinator populations.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 8:30AM-2PM TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE CENTER, SONORA (1700 N. CROCKETT STREET)

AT17-144 RANCHERS ROUNDUP: MANAGING RANGE AND LIVESTOCK PESTS

Topics will include herbicide use, a sprayer calibration demonstration, and pros and cons of ranching Wool Sheep, Hair Sheep and Meat Goats, and Managing Livestock Pests and Parasites. Register by May 19; fee is \$15 (includes lunch) by May 19; \$20 thereafter. For further information and to register, contact Pascual Hernandez at 325-387-3101 or p-hernandez@tamu.edu.

THURSDAY, MAY 25 7-9PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE (CNC)

AT17-150 TRAILS OF THE CIBOLO NATURE CENTER

Learn more about the four ecosystems of the Cibolo Nature Center during an evening hike led by Ben Eldredge. We will stroll along the banks of the creek on the Cypress Trail; under the trees on the Woodland Trail; across the boardwalk on the March Trail; and through the grasses of the Prairie Loop. Cost: members, \$8, non-members, \$10, kids \$5, under 12, free. Refreshments provided

FRIDAY, JUNE 2 1-4PM MASON MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, MASON

AT17-120 MASON MOUNTAIN WMA OVERVIEW AND QUAIL STUDY ORIENTATION

Both the overview and the orientation will focus on the history and purpose of this WMA. This orientation will be repeated on June 3, 9am-12pm. For more information, contact Tony Plutino at 512-496-2020 or tonyplutino@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3 9AM-12PM MASON MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, MASON

AT17-120 MASON MOUNTAIN WMA OVERVIEW AND QUAIL STUDY ORIENTATION

This is a repeat of the Friday, June 2 session; see above for details.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT17-143 INSTRUMENTS OF WATERSHED CHANGE

The webinar is part of the "Texas Waters Specialist" program, designed to develop a corps of well-informed volunteer specialists who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of aquatic resources and aquatic habitats within their communities for the state of Texas. For more information, contact Johnnie Smith at 512-389-8060 or johnnie.smith@tpwd.texas.gov. To register, go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5818565338900607489>.

MONDAY, JUNE 26 7PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE

The topic of this monthly meeting of the Hill Country Chapter will be White-Tailed Deer Management.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27 6:30-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, FREDERICKSBURG

AT17-142 ATTRACTING BIRDS IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY: A GUIDE TO LAND STEWARDSHIP

Biologist Rufus Stephens will focus at the Native Plant Society of Texas Fredricksburg chapter's monthly meeting on common problems and possible solutions for developing optimum habitat for birds.

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



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

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

Everyone is welcome.

Texas Master Naturalist mission:

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

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

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



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