

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the

Texas Master Naturalist

Hill Country Chapter

September 2017 Volume 15 Number 9



Mo-Ranch photo

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



September 25 Meeting: Mo-Ranch, A Natural Resource For All

Mo-Ranch's President and CEO, Dick Powell, will discuss the ranch's history, natural resources, environmental initiatives, outdoor education programming, and volunteer opportunities. The monthly meetings of the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter 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!

The summer heat has subsided, Fall is on its way, and there are lots of Master Naturalist activities.

I saw my first Monarch here in Pipe Creek the other day so I ordered my tags from Monarch Watch. I love tagging Monarchs every October when they fly through the Texas Hill Country. It's supposed to be a good year, according to Chip Taylor at Monarch Watch; the numbers look bigger than last year. The snow on the mountain is in full bloom and the Frostweed is getting ready to provide needed nectar to fatten them up for their winter rest in Mexico.

We have just completed installing a deer-proof fence around our property. I am excited to watch the plants on our property recover. We have struggled over the years to increase the diversity on our property. We've added dozens of wire cages and corrals over the years to protect newly placed native trees and shrubs. I've noticed that these additions have increased the species of butterflies and birds. With the deer on the other side of the fence we can continue to work towards our goal of a balanced and healthy ecosystem.

The HCMN Training Class of 2017 is off to a great start. The trainees are already participating in several volunteer projects. Look for their bios in this newsletter and welcome them at our chapter meetings.

There's still time to sign up for the Texas Master Naturalist 18th Annual meeting at the Omni Hotel Corpus Christi on October 20-22. It's a great opportunity to connect with other Master Naturalists from all parts of our lovely state. There are so many interesting training sessions to attend. Since we are celebrating our 15th Year Anniversary, I hope we make a great showing. Each year that I attend, I learn something new and meet new friends. There is a silent auction that we always need donations for. Also, if you would like to earn some volunteer hours, you can let Michelle Haggerty know; they can always use the help. Sign up to attend by the September 30 deadline and join us!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the September 25 chapter meeting. Dick Powell, President and CEO of Mo-Ranch, will tell us of Mo-Ranch's history and the volunteer opportunities it provides.

Brenda Fest

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Doug Gray, Hal Zesch

Special Recertification

Joyce Studer

2017 Recertification

Pam Goolsby, Sarabeth Mayfield, Rober McRoberts, Lynda Nolkamper

Milestone

Joe Braly, Elsa Roberts - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours

T E X A S MASTER NATURALIST™ 18th Annual Meeting



OCTOBER 20-22, 2017
OMNI CORPUS CHRISTI HOTEL



This year's event will mark the Texas Master Naturalist Program's 18th Annual Meeting and will be the 19th year of the program. This year's meeting will be held at the **Omni Corpus Christi** the weekend of **October 20 through 22, 2017**.

We are pleased to extend an invitation to ALL Texas Master Naturalist Program volunteers, along with all program affiliates. This includes certified volunteers, those still in training, program administrators or advisors of local chapters, and local chapter partners, sponsors, or special guests. This year's gathering has several chapter enhancement and Advanced Training topics to choose from. Our social times, chapter project fair showcase, and round table discussions will offer great opportunities to meet fellow Texas Master Naturalists from our 48 Chapters across the state and share new ideas.

Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend and contribute to Board of Directors meetings. The board meets this month at the Riverside Nature Center at 2:30 on Monday, Sept. 25.

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley:

- 8/5/17 Some Common, but Inconspicuous, Small Native Plants
- 8/12/17 Misconceptions We Have About Nature
- 8/19/17 Plant Succession: How Mother Nature Rearranges Her Landscape, and How We Are Involved
- 8/26/17 Screwworm Fly Eradication: Local Lab Played Major Role in Eliminating the Pest from Texas

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

NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, Craig Hensley, Park Interpreter/ Resource Specialist at Guadalupe River State Park, will be our speaker. His topic is "Introducing the Milkweeds of Texas."

Socializing at 6:30pm, program at 7pm
Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne



NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, Sept. 26, Mike Williams will discuss special plant enclosures and rock dams he has built. Mo Saiidi will focus on doing landscaping from ground preparation, to plant selection, to the final planting.

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, Oct. 10, at 1:30, Tyson Broad, Llano River Watershed Coordinator, will present "Llano River and Edwards Plateau Conservation Initiatives and the Recovery of Native Species."

Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville

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

Texas Master Naturalist-Hill Country Chapter
& Riverside Nature Center Invite you to...

Native Plant Sale & Festival



Saturday • October 7th

9am
to
2pm



Native Plant Sale

Sale begins at 9:00 am. Come early for the best selection! Our sale is special because of our people; experts will be available to help you select plants that will thrive in your particular landscape conditions. There will be a variety of shrubs, perennials, native trees and more that have been carefully selected from nurseries across Central Texas.

All net proceeds benefit the RNC and TMN-HCC education efforts.
SAVE! One day Tax-Free shopping for Plants and Gifts

Fun & Informative Talks

"Snakes in the Garden: Myth Busting & Fact Finding"



11:00 am

Misunderstanding breeds fear. Come learn the facts with the help a bevy of live beauties!

Informative Exhibits & Displays

Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter Ask the Plant Expert
Native Plant Society of Texas - Kerrville Chapter Green Energy of SA
Hill Country Master Gardeners Glory Community Garden
Riverside Nature Center Association
TX Hill Country Beekeepers Association

UGRA - Water Quality & Conservation Monarch Watch

Free Fun Kids Activities

Craft Projects inside Visitors Center to take home.

10am - 1pm



For Detailed Information: 830-257-4837
www.riversidenaturecenter.org

150 Francisco Lemos Street • Kerrville, Texas 78028

Help Wanted!

Friends of The Fredericksburg Nature Center

- * Signs & Education Materials
- * Trail Blazers
- * Third Grade Nature Day
- * Bird Feeder Caretakers
- * Butterfly Monitors for Pollinator Garden
- * Butterfly Garden Plant Parents
- * Geology Exhibit Display Caretakers

For details, contact Jane Crone, jcrone@austin.rr.com
or 830-990-9823

Wildlife Field Research

October 9 - 14, 2017

Citizen Science For Everyone



Ant Survey



Amphibian Watch

Aquatic Survey

Butterfly Survey

Bird Counts



Dragonfly & Damselfly Survey

Prairie Vegetation Photo Points

Prairie Vegetation Survey



Riparian Woody Plant Survey

Small Mammal Trapping

Water Snake & Reptile Search



NEW iNaturalist Bioblitz



Join the Cibolo Nature Center's
Citizen Science Research Team!

tinyurl.com/CiboloResearch

Finding Common Ground and Advancing Positive Conservation Outcomes in Environmental Issues

A Hill Country Chapter Sponsored Advanced Training Workshop (AT17-199)

**Friday, October 6, 8am - 3pm
Patrick Heath Public Library Meeting Room, Boerne**

Texas Master Naturalists, as both knowledgeable citizens and responsible Americans, are called to use sound science and common ground in reaching our audience members, friends, colleagues, and neighbors. As our society has embraced the language of divisiveness, how can we use our TMN skills to fulfill this moral imperative?

This workshop will address this challenge by focusing on the language of effective communication, examples of successful environmental initiatives, and opportunities to advance conservation issues.

**Instructors: Michelle Haggerty, Texas Master Naturalist Program State Coordinator
Jaime González, Community Conservation Director of the Katy Prairie Conservancy
Richard Heilbrun, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Rufus Stephens, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Craig Childs, Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Ben Eldridge, Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter and Director of Adult Education at the Cibolo Nature Center & Farm**

Cost: \$10.00 donation at the door for lunch; cash or check made out to HCMN.

Registration is required by October 4
Please indicate if a vegetarian lunch is preferred.

To register or for questions, contact Craig Childs at craig.c.childs@gmail.com or 210-286-2674.

Please note: This event is not sponsored by the Patrick Heath Public Library.



The Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter Class of 2017



Allan Howard is a native Hoosier who's also lived in Michigan and Idaho, and now, in Kerrville. He earned a BS in Chemistry from Purdue University and an MS in Chemistry from Central Michigan University. During most of his career at Dow Chemical, Micron Technology, and Samsung Austin Semiconductor, he worked on quality. Allan and his wife, Diana, enjoy the outdoors and are avid hikers and tent campers. They have conveyed this interest to their son, who is currently a senior writer and editor at National Geographic. They also have two daughters and two granddaughters; another is arriving in September. Allan is currently president of his neighborhood HOA and interested in nature photography, Texas history, and high-powered rocketry.

Allison Johnson was born and raised in Augusta, Georgia and graduated from Augusta State University with a degree in English. She worked at university libraries for years, but in 2000, with her husband's parents gone and their ranch manager suddenly deceased, the two of them decided to move to his family's ranch in Kimble County, near London. Needless to say, it was quite a change. In the years since, Allison has learned a lot, but her desire to learn has only grown. She has always loved being outdoors, whether it's to work or to play. She works with the children of London now, wants to share what she learns with them, and hopes to pique their interest in the natural world around them.



Amanda Martin was born in Houston, raised in Texas, and is a sixth generation Texan, a Daughter of the Republic of Texas, and a living historian with The Texas Army who now resides at her ranch located northwest of Rocksprings in Edwards County. She graduated from the University of Houston with a BA in Operations Management and had a career in the oil & gas industry until retiring in 2014. Amanda is an avid downhill skier and also enjoys nature, fishing, snorkeling, traveling, and photography. She is particularly interested in projects that benefit Hill Country wildlife, and especially bats, bees and birds, as well as in wildlife habitat preservation, healthy streams and rivers, and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

Anna Orsak was born and raised in El Campo and attended parochial school and El Campo High School, followed by Wharton County Junior College, where she studied business and computer programming. She worked as a multi lines claims adjuster for the past 30 years, handling general liability and work-related injury claims, and retired in June 2017. Anna has been married to Gary for 47 years; their three daughters have blessed them with nine grandchildren. They lived in San Antonio for 30 years and moved to Kendalia, where they have a small orchard, four years ago. They enjoy hunting, fishing, and wildlife management as well as gardening and landscaping.



Britt Laws was born and raised in San Antonio, where she met her husband of nearly ten years, and is currently transitioning out of a career as a Production Arts Director for a church in San Antonio in order to pursue their family business and spend time at home with their three-year old son, Jack. They moved to family land in Bandera County in April of this year and have loved every second of it. Britt and her husband are both long-time lovers of nature and all things outdoors, and are raising their boy to enjoy those pleasures.



Bruce Staffel was born in San Antonio, has lived in Texas for 60 years, and was a television production manager for 25 years. After sending their youngest child off to college, he and Evelyn built a home in Port Aransas where they lived for seven years. Bruce obtained a 50-ton Coast Guard license and started a Dolphin Watch and Family Fishing private charter business. In 2012, they purchased property in Fredericksburg to develop a retail business as well as rental cabins and have plans to convert the Ag portion of their property from sheep grazing to Wildlife Management for songbirds and pollinators.



Catherine Gauldin was born in Richmond, Virginia and moved with her parents to Houston when she was ten years old. She grew up in Clear Lake, south of Houston. Her mother worked at NASA for 30 years and her father was involved in the early years of the computer industry. She attended Texas A&M, earned a degree in Architecture, and worked as an independent contractor in the construction business as an architectural designer and illustrator for more than 35 years. Catherine moved to the Hill Country four years ago and am now involved in wildlife rehabilitation and pursuing her love of nature as a wildlife artist and photographer.



Charleen Moore was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, and went to school in Louisiana, Indiana, Tennessee and Maryland. She earned a PhD in genetics and did postdoctoral work at Johns Hopkins. Her first teaching position was at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. In 1982 Charleen moved to San Antonio and taught at the Health Science Center until last month, when she retired after 44 years of teaching medical genetics and human gross anatomy. Mackenzie Brown and Charleen were married at the Grand Canyon 13 years ago and are volunteers at the Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area (ABKSNA). They love history, photography, birding, native plants, hiking, travel, astronomy, and solar eclipses--so they missed the reception because they were in Kansas City that day, watching the total eclipse.



Charles Harrington was born in Houston, raised in Ft. Worth, and earned his BBA degree from the University of Texas. His mother's work at the Ft. Worth Museum of Science and History exposed him to many subjects which led to his interest in the natural environment. On weekends, while working in their video deposition business in Houston, he and his wife of 42 years, Cindy, began gathering materials for building a cabin on the Medina River in Bandera. After selling their businesses in Houston, they're living there temporarily in a caboose that was his parents' guest house and continuing to gather those materials.



Charles Laird was born and raised in Laredo where he graduated from high school and attended two years of junior college before going to Texas A&M, where he received a degree in Animal Science in 1973. He then worked for a couple of years in ranching operations scattered all over the Edwards Plateau. He moved back to the A&M area, married, and worked there with a ministry for troubled youth in a ranch environment for about 14 years before studying theology and working as a pastor for several years. He moved to Kerrville in the 1990s. Charles retired a couple of years ago and lives a little south of Kerrville with his wife and one daughter, one dog, six cats, and way too many chickens and ducks. He is an amateur astronomer and avid kayaker, and is particularly interested in water quality and aquatic biology.



Cindy Harrington's early years were in Dallas. She earned a BBA degree from the University of Houston Clear Lake and then worked in the garden industry, promoting native Texas plants and xeriscape. She also worked in home building and land development sales and promotion. After she and her husband purchased their Hill Country property, Cindy became interested in archaeology. She attended the Texas Archaeology Association's field school for many years. Since moving to Bandera, she has been active on several non-profit boards, and for two years was privileged to distribute food for Meals on Wheels. She currently owns and manages a B&B on the Medina River and serves on the Economic Development Corporation for the City of Bandera.

Cynthia McKenna was raised in New Mexico and has lived more than half her life in Texas. She says that she still has New Mexico chili in her veins, but that Texas feels like home. Cynthia earned a Master of Education in early childhood education with a specialization in human development from Texas Tech, a Master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, and a Master of Arts in counseling from St. Mary's. She is an Episcopal priest, psychotherapist, and spiritual director, and lives with her spouse, Melanie Fain, who is a wildlife artist and skeet shooter. They share their home with three dogs and four cats. She enjoys cooking, gardening, reading, writing, knitting, and time with friends.



Daniel Oppenheimer was born and raised in San Antonio, attended Washington University in Saint Louis for his BA in Environmental Studies and Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies for his Masters in Environmental Management. He moved back to Texas this summer after five years along the Colorado-Utah border and now resides in Gillespie County. As the Land Program Manager for the Hill Country Alliance (HCA), Daniel works with landowners, communities, and collaboratives to improve riparian habitat and watershed health in the Pedernales, Llano, Blanco, and Medina River Basins. He's always glad to chat with folks who'd like to learn more about HCA. When not working, he likes to hunt, fish, walk his dog, Topo, ride his mountain bike, and play with his niece and nephew.

Don Gray was born in San Antonio but almost immediately moved to the hills west of Austin, where he lived all but six years of his life. Five of those six years were in Bryan College Station; he was on the staff of the Texas A&M University System, although he earned a BBA in Insurance and Risk Management from the University of Texas. Don moved to Mason County last year after purchasing a little piece of property on the Llano River where he plans to build a home soon. He's been self-employed for over 25 years as an insurance and risk management consultant, specializing in serving county governments, school districts, and electric cooperatives. Don enjoyed propagating and growing native plants for many years and also enjoys hunting and fishing.



Dora McDaniels was born in Aransas Pass to a shrimper father and stay-at-home mother who had six children. Dora started a family and, as a military family, moved to many other states. She retired from the Navy in 2002 and moved to South Carolina to assist her eldest son with his children and play grandma. She's always had a great passion for working with and enjoying nature, and especially, with plants. In South Carolina she enjoyed watching the many lizards, skinks, owls, pileated woodpeckers, spiders, and snakes, and planting many native plants. Now that she's returned to her native Texas, Dora is helping her daughter and enjoying the beauty of the Hill Country.



Evelyn Staffel was born in Virginia and raised in Texas. She and her husband Bruce have been married for 40 years and live in Fredericksburg; they have three children and three of their grandchildren live in Texas. After raising their children, Evelyn went back to school to become a Registered Nurse and then worked as an RN in hospitals and as a hospice nurse for many years and now has retired. She has developed an interest in gardening with a special interest in plants that attract pollinators, as well as birds, and looks forward to adding to that knowledge base.

Janet Petrosky was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and her family moved to Polson, Montana when she was in high school. She eventually moved to Seattle, where she met her future husband, John, who worked for Shell Chemical and was transferred to many different places around the US (Montana, Washington, New York, California, North Carolina, New Jersey, Nevada) while they raised three children--although they lived in Houston for the majority of his career. They now live in Kerrville, have four grandchildren, and she enjoys volunteering at Riverside Nature Center and playing golf. Janet has always been interested in observing the world around her, especially the native plants and wildlife in the variety of locations in which they've lived.



Joanna Conner was born and raised to appreciate both country life and city advantages. Her family moved from Chicago to the suburbs 30 miles west when she was three. Her father's business was downtown, so from the time she was eight she spent many hours at Chicago's museums and zoo. In her 20's Joanna lived in Europe, the Middle East, and East Africa, and for a year sailed the Mediterranean and the Pacific—including one trip from Hawaii to Fiji. Joanna married a Texan who passed away early in 2016; they had two children. She earned BA and MA degrees in Humanistic Psychology, Holistic Health and Early Childhood Education, holds six public school teaching licenses, and home schooled their children. Joanna and her children manage their 500-acre ranch.

John Adams was born in Corpus Christi, graduated from Tivy High School in Kerrville in 1968, and currently lives in Bandera. He earned a BS in Biology from Corpus Christi State University in 1990 and an MS in Biology from Texas A&M - Corpus Christi in 1993. From 1991-2011 he worked at the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science. His work was focused on remote sensing, environmental monitoring (including water quality, tides, and sea level), meteorological data, water currents, and waves. John's mother, siblings, grown children, and grandchildren live in Texas. He's particularly interested in issues concerning clean water, especially in Hill Country creeks and rivers, as well as issues concerning plastic and other litter.



Kathy Daleo was born and raised in Beaumont and earned her BSN degree from Texas Woman's University in Denton. During her career as an RN, she worked as an LVN instructor at Lamar University, in the cardiovascular field, and in the Emergency Room and Intensive Care. Nature has always brought her peace. As a child Kathy gave nature tours in her yard with an entourage of imaginary tourists following her. In 2003 she moved to a ranch in Mountain Home and literally became friends with the animals. In 2009 she moved to Kerrville. With her dog Chief, Kathy's participated in pet therapy and Canine Literacy programs for elementary children. She's currently volunteering as a guide at the Riverside Nature Center.



Katy Kappel is the second of five children born to lowans who moved to San Diego during World War II. They lived on a farm in the eastern county when deer and coyotes were still common and the river had water in it. The family camped and Katy was a Girl Scout. With an M.A. from California State University–Los Angeles, she came to Houston in 1972 and worked as a counselor and homeless shelter administrator. Katy escaped to Austin in 1980, where she worked at the jail and as a court investigator in family law cases. Katy’s husband, five-year-old granddaughter, and she retired to Kerrville last year. She is interested in water conservation issues, animals, archeology, and native plants and enjoys cooking, camping, cycling, birding, pottery, and Zumba.

Kevin Wessels is a Kerrville native who currently lives in Kerrville. He studied Forestry and Renewable Natural Resources at Texas A&M. After graduating, he moved to Arkansas to work in the timber business. Currently Kevin works for the H. E. Butt Family Foundation, helping them steward their property near Leakey through making the property more diverse, balanced, robust, and native. Promoting hardwood regeneration, removing invasive species, and controlling deer numbers are some of the ways to accomplish this goal. Kevin recently married; he and his wife Kelsie enjoy hiking together and traveling to new places. He also enjoys painting with watercolor and listening to live music.



Laura Grant was born and raised in the northwestern corner of New Mexico and now lives in Fredericksburg. She graduated with a master’s degree in Physical Therapy from Texas Tech and worked as a physical therapist in Albuquerque NM with geriatrics and then moved to a tiny town called Edgewood. There she worked in a rural clinic and treated all ages. She is the mother of two young children; her family moved to Fredericksburg a year ago and have enjoyed the numerous outdoor activities in the area. Laura enjoys being outdoors and is passionate about Dark Skies; she finds that there is nothing better than being able to see the Milky Way and all of the constellations. She is particularly interested in bats and bees.

Laurence Doxsey was born in New York City and grew up there, in upstate New York, and northern New Jersey. He earned a BS degree in French at Macalester College in St. Paul MN and an MA from the Institute for Social Ecology at Goddard College in Plainfield VT. His work career included operating a solar and energy efficiency business in Asheville NC, designing and leading the Green Building Program in Austin, serving as a Community Builder Fellow and Environmental Officer with the US HUD Department, and directing the City of San Antonio Office of Sustainability. He is now retired and resides on a rural property near Medina that he and his wife have owned since 2001. It includes rainwater and solar systems. Laurence has participated in the Christmas Bird Counts as well as the Butterfly Counts and is a member of the Bandera Canyonlands Alliance, Nature Conservancy, Bandera Democratic Club, and various environmental groups.



Leslie Hannah was born in Hawaii, raised in Georgia, lived for 20 years in Southern California, and now resides in Bandera. She studied journalism and elementary education at the University of Georgia and holds a Master’s degree in teaching from Chapman University. She worked as an elementary school teacher for over 20 years in California. Leslie and her husband, who is an airline pilot, have three boys. She has been an Assistant Scoutmaster, Cub Scout Leader, Merit Badge counselor, and a Leave No Trace coordinator for the Boy Scouts of America. As a family they spend a great deal of time outdoors, camping, fishing, hiking, kayaking, and eating. Leslie hopes to continue working with children.



Lisa Center was born and raised in Newport News, Virginia. She postponed college, got busy with her family, returned to school as an adult, and graduated from James Madison University. She holds degrees and certification as an Herbalist, Reiki Master, and Massage Therapist, and has written several healing manuals with International Lightworkers. She also taught online courses related to energy and body work. Lisa has been working as a medical social worker for almost thirty years and still works full time in an area nursing home. She has three grown children and one grandson; her son lives in Texas and daughters in Virginia. She is in the woods or by the river, with her dog, when she isn't working.

Lorraine Popp was born and raised in Helotes. After high school she moved around for about 30 years; then three years ago, moved to Boerne. She earned a BS in Business Information Systems and worked in telecommunications for 20 years. After returning to school for her nursing degree she worked as an RN for eight years in Houston. She has been married for 16 years. Lorraine now works part-time, consulting for a produce company in San Antonio. She enjoys gardening, reading, kayaking, and hiking, and is interested in wildlife migration, habitat protection, protecting waterways, pollinator gardens, and the need for dark skies.



Mackenzie Brown was born in California and now lives on the Guadalupe River near Bergheim. His father worked on nature conservation efforts; thus he grew up in a conservation-minded family and read *Silent Spring* the year it came out, while he was in high school. He earned a BA in History at Stanford and a PhD at Harvard in History of Religion—emphasis on Hindu/Buddhist traditions. His first and only teaching job has been at Trinity University (1973-present); he is currently on leave to finish a book on Asian religious responses to Darwinism. He and his wife, Charleen Moore, have coauthored three articles on cultural, religious, and scientific issues of body-preservation and the democratization of anatomical knowledge. They are now moving to earth-preservation; including their volunteer work at the Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area.

Margaret Reed was born and raised in Chicago and graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in Mathematics. After teaching secondary math for three years, she changed careers, became a computer programmer and business analyst, and earned an MBA degree from DePaul University. She and her husband, Clarence, moved to Minneapolis with their daughter Katie; later, they moved to Houston where she returned to teaching and eventually merged her two careers when she managed the Information Services Department for the Houston area school district. Margaret retired in 2012 and they moved to Kerrville in 2015. Her interests include traveling, hiking, exploring state and national parks, and volunteering at both Sid Peterson and Hill Country Memorial hospitals.



Maura Windlinger was born in Houston and raised in Cleveland, Conroe, and Bellaire. She earned her Chemical Engineering degree at the University of Texas and accepted an offer from Abbott Laboratories, a Chicago pharmaceutical company. So she and her husband, John, moved to Chicago. They thought that would only be for two years, but 31 years later they finally moved back to Texas. Maura retired from Abbott in 2013 and they immediately moved to Kerrville. They live on 265 acres of hilly, wooded property with lots of springs and water running throughout the bottom area. Their two children were born and raised in Chicago, but both chose to attend college in Texas. Their daughter will graduate in December as a Nurse Practitioner and hopes to practice in the Kerrville area. Their son, his wife, and their grandchild live in Dallas, where he works as a Petroleum Engineer.



Melissa Riggs is a twin (not identical) and the youngest of eight children. She was raised in Abilene and earned her BS in Nursing from the University of Texas at Arlington. She moved to the Texas Hill Country in 2002 and built a home in 2005 on 1.93 acres between Sisterdale and Luckenbach. Melissa worked as an RN for over 30 years. She returned to school for computer technology, started Clinical Informatics in 2009, and in 2012 began working from home, building medical software used in hospitals. She and Steve have been married for 16 years, have four rescue dogs, live on Platten Creek, maintain a garden best they can, and drought has them dealing with erosion.

Rachel Thompson was born and raised on the Texas Gulf Coast where her father raised rice and cattle. She loved living in the country but left to attend Rice University in Houston, and later, Baylor College of Medicine. She and her husband lived in the middle of the city for 40 years. Last year she retired from a very busy ob/gyn practice and they moved to the Boerne area. Her dream was to move back to the country, and they chose the Hill Country because of the climate and proximity to their children and grandchildren in Houston--but mostly for the beauty and the wildness that still remains in many areas.



Rick Edwards was born in Alton IL, grew up in Bartlesville OK, and earned a BS degree in Psychology and an MBA from Oklahoma State University. As a boy living in Northeastern Oklahoma he wandered the fields near his home and came to love the wildlife he encountered and brought home--much to his mother's alarm. While in college he worked two unforgettable summers for the US Bureau of Mines along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, conducting a gold survey in the Idaho Primitive Area, which is now known as the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. His career started as a financial analyst for a large oil company. Later he sold oil and gas and industrial equipment. Now he is semi-retired and working part-time as a service coordinator for a company that maintains aerobic septic systems. He and his wife, Brenda, live in Boerne and have a country place near Kendalia. They have four grown children and eight grandchildren.

Shawn Richard was born and raised in San Antonio and has lived there all her life; she still has family residing in San Antonio and Boerne. She and her husband Mark recently celebrated their 35th anniversary. They have worked in church ministry for the last 30 years. After long and rewarding service, it is time for a new season. They purchased a small ranch in Bandera County, and will eventually be living and working there. They have two children, two "married in" children, and three grandchildren. Long walks on a country road are her favorite activity. She loves Jesus, good conversation, and serving her friends and family; dabbles in writing, enjoys any kind of gardening, and relaxes with good books and cup of hot tea. She is a student of creation around her, will always love learning how to be a good steward of it, and is a certified Master Gardener.



Susan McFarland was born and raised in Fort Worth and recently moved to Kerrville. She earned her associate degree from Tarrant County College and is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Organization Leadership at Texas A&M University - Commerce. She is a hairstylist and wellness advocate and after working for a decade as a news reporter, has recently returned to freelance writing. Susan has two grown sons and two fur-babies that she rescued—a dog named Sugar and a cat named Tango. She is an amateur birder who enjoys spending time outdoors, walking the river trail, cooking and trying different cuisines, and reading. Her love for nature began when her boys were young and family vacations centered around visits to Texas State Parks.



Terry Lashley was born and raised in Roswell, New Mexico. She moved to Texas in 1975 to attend UTSA and promptly fell in love with the Hill Country. While attending UTSA she managed the greenhouse where they propagated many native trees and shrubs along with bedding plants for use in landscaping the UTSA grounds. After graduating with a degree in Geography, she purchased a small ranch here where she lived for 22 years while working for USAA as a compliance advisor. Terry retired last year and has been enjoying having the time to garden, hike, camp, fish, and travel as much as she wants. She currently lives in Boerne with her Ally, her rescue dog.

Veronica Hawk was raised in Ohio and earned her BA in zoology from Miami University in 1981. She worked as a chemistry lab tech, sold lab and molecular biology equipment, and also worked at Zoo Atlanta and Emory University as a registrar. Veronica volunteered as rescue coordinator for the Georgia Native Plant society, worked at the Georgia Perimeter native plant garden, and became a Master Naturalist in Georgia in 2006. Most of her family is in Ohio. Veronica is now volunteering for the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society; she has been VP/program manager, secretary, and rescue coordinator, and will be president of the chapter in 2018. She enjoys being at home in Bulverde where she lives with her husband, Steve, and their Jack Russell terriers, Nutmeg and Hunter, who help with vegetable and herb gardening.



Vivian Fink was born in Superior, Wisconsin and raised in Plano when it was a small farming community. She is an RN who earned her nursing degree at the Dallas Community Colleges and her certificate in midwifery at the University of Arizona. After many years of living and working in Georgia, California, and Arizona as a nurse-midwife she retired and now lives on 25 acres in Hondo with her husband, John; they raise goats and train stock dogs. She has one living son who is married and three grandchildren. Vivian is interested in all things that crawl or sprawl on this earth, is fascinated by feral hogs, and has a special interest in water and restoration in grasslands.

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Mason, TX
8 Films!

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and fun!

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The View from Rusty Bend



From up here

Cliff Dwelling

*The river snakes below us,
coiled against a cliff
of limestone slabs.
We perch on that stony wall.*

*From up here
we gaze down—
ponder the cobalt
tops of herons' wings.*

*From up here,
this vantaged view,
the peregrinations of turkeys
trace patterns in deep grass.*

*Up here
we are eye to eye with the osprey,
a jewel of sunfish
taloned in his grasp.*

*From up here,
the wind shoulders
limbs of cypress and pecan—
tossing like a restless night.*

*We see through
a kettle of kestrels, while below
the serpent sheds
a skin of buttermilk fog.*

*From up here, a pair of great egrets
crash lands on bare branches—
two dragons hidden
in the tops of trees.*

Usually I think of August as the month of purple fruits, but this year August is shining as the month of mirrors. Some particular trick of light and angle has grabbed our attention. The river reflects the grey ghosts of cypress trunks, in stately procession. The backs of ravens are as molten silver. Huge dragonflies lose their usual auburn colors, and now shine like polished chrome. In the breeze, cottonwood leaves rustle a dry tune, yet have a glassy gleam. Bear grass fronds glisten wetly—like girls drying their hair in the sun.

August is a time for bathing. A Summer Tanager loves his bath. He hones his beak as he dries, back and forth on any sharp edge, like a barber's strop. Then, he does a little backstroke with each wing, to shed water from each feather. Goldfinches swim from one side of the birdbath to the other. A Golden-fronted Woodpecker clings to the oak as he dries. Backlit by sun, diamonds on each wide-sprung feather, he is gaudy as a queen in a Mardi Gras parade.

continued on next page

We hide from the heat during most of the day, putting up peaches, making pickles, relish, and sauerkraut. Piles of books and regular naps punctuate each afternoon. As the plants and trees go still in a kind of heat dormancy, so we also hibernate a bit. Even Andy's chores as a nest watcher have wound down. I will miss his reports: nicknames for boxes, the snake box, the bat box, tiny dramas of predation, but so many victories. My bluebird rancher tallied 44 successful bluebird fledglings. A good year.

The sounds of August are subtle. Frogs before dawn with their slow rhythm, the squeal of a Red-shouldered Hawk, ravens cawing as they comb the fields for grasshoppers, the three-note beginner songs of young Canyon Wrens.

Inside, we are quiet, waiting for cooler times, listening to kraut bubble and pop in the crock.

Poem, essay and images by Lucy Griffith
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Lucy Griffith, PhD co-manages the Rusty Bend Ranch with her husband, Andy Robinson. She also writes poetry; her muse is a tractor named Ruby. She is currently working on the story of the Burro Lady of West Texas, told in poems. Both Lucy and Andy are certified Master Naturalists from the Class of 2013. Comments welcome at doctorluz@hctc.net.



Cypress Ghosts

BENNETT TRUST
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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Bennett Trust Women's Conference

October 2-3, 2017
Location:
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Conference

Conference includes presentations, discussions, and "behind the scenes" tour:

- What is Land Stewardship?
- Reptile and Amphibians - Get to Know Your Neighbors
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- Agriculture Laws Every Landowner Needs to Know
- Stewardship: The Next Generation
- Tours: Plant ID, Skeet Shoot, Archery Shooting Demo, Texas Hill Vineyards, Lavender Farm, CMC Dairy

Conference attendees receive all meals, break refreshment items and field tour transportation. Come and join us as we discover the history and resource management of a very special region of Texas - the Edwards Plateau.

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BennettTrust.tamu.edu

Advanced Training

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20 1:15-2:15PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL , KERRVILLE
AT17-174 TREE IDENTIFICATION

Jim Stanley will discuss and show how to identify Hill Country native trees.

THURSDAY, SEPT.21 8:30AM-4PM CAMP LUCY, 3509 CREEK ROAD, DRIPPING SPRINGS
AT17-200 HILL COUNTRY ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

For information on topics and speakers, go to www.hillcountryalliance.org/LeadershipSummit .

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22 8:30AM-3PM MANSFIELD PARK REC HALL, BANDERA
AT17-207 INVASIVE AND EXOTIC SPECIES FIELD DAY

Pre-register by 5:00 pm on Sept 20 with the Bandera County Extension Office; call 830-796-7755 or go to Bandera-TX@ag.tamu.edu .

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22 10AM-2PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER - HERFF FARM, BOERNE
AT17-224 GROWING UP WILD VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Volunteer training for preschool field trip program. Growing Up Wild is a preschool program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore on the world around them. Lunch will be provided. The Instructor is Stephanie Colvard. For more information or to register call 830 249 4616.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23 6:45-8PM MASON MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
AT17-211 ATTRACTING BIRDS IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Biologist Rufus Stephens will discuss common problems and possible solutions for developing optimum habitat for birds. The session is open to the public and free of charge.

MONDAY, SEPT. 25 6:30-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE
AT17-198 MO-RANCH: A NATURAL RESOURCE FOR ALL

Mo-Ranch's President and CEO, Dick Powell, will discuss the ranch's history, environmental initiatives, outdoor education programming, and volunteer opportunities at the chapter monthly meeting.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26 630-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LECTURE HALL, FREDERICKSBURG
AT17-206 NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPING: LEARNING BY DOING

At the mothly meeting of the Native Plant Society of Texas Fredericksburg chapter Mike Williams will discuss special plant enclosures and rock dams he has built and Mo Saiidi will focus on doing landscaping from ground preparation, to plant selection, and to the final planting.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27 6:15-8:30PM OLD TUNNEL STATE PARK, FREDERICKSBURG
AT17-175 AN INTRODUCTION TO BATS: THEIR HABITS AND HABITATS

Nyta Brown, Superintendent and Wildlife Biologist, will speak on the history of the tunnel, bat biology, and the importance of bats to the environment.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29 9:45AM-3PM TEXAS A&M SCHOOL OF LAW, FORT WORTH

AT17-216 LEGAL UPDATE AND CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR TEXAS LANDOWNERS

This workshop is hosted by the Texas A&M School of Law Program in Natural Resources Topics include conservation easements and estate tax planning, fencing laws, and strategies for dealing with condemnation. Register at the event; \$10 per person.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30 9AM-12PM CIBOLO NAGTURE CENTER AND FARM, BOERNE
AT17-213 HARVESTING RAINWATER AND SOLAR ENERGY

John Kight, engineer, rainwater catchment and solar panel owner, gives the latest technological information and the most practical advice. Cost: Members \$25/person; non-members \$35/person. Pre-registration is required; for information, go to Ben@cibolo.org or call 830-249-3616.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, OCT. 2-3 INN ON BARONS CREEK, FREDERICKSBURG
AT 17-217 BENNETT TRUST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: THE STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE
 The conference will cover stewardship of natural resources, deer management fundamentals, becoming a Texas Master Naturalist, and more. Cost: \$75; includes all meals, break refreshments and tour transportation costs. To register, go to <https://agrilliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2357> .

SATURDAY, OCT. 3 6:30-8PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND FARM, BOERNE
AT17-193 INTRODUCING THE MILKWEEDS OF TEXAS
 Craig Hensley, Park Interpreter/Resource Specialist for Guadalupe River State Park, will speak on the unique structure of milkweed flowers and introduce those native to the Hill Country at the monthly meeting of the Boerne NPSOT Chapter.

THURSDAY, OCT. 5 6:30-8:30PM HERFF FARM & TEACHING BARN, BOERNE
AT17-214 SNAKES AND SNAKESBITES
 David Barker, a world renowned snake expert, will explore the snakes of the Texas Hill Country, including their biology and behavior. Cost: Adult Non Member \$10, Adult Members \$8, Kids \$5

FRIDAY, OCT. 6 8AM-3PM PATRICK HEATH PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING ROOM, BOERNE
AT17-199 FINDING COMMON GROUND AND ADVANCING POSITIVE CONSERVATION OUTCOMES
 Texas Master Naturalists are called to use sound science in reaching our audience. As our society has embraced a language of divisiveness, this workshop will address how we can use our TMN skills to fulfill this moral imperative. The focus will be on a language of effective communication, examples of successful environmental initiatives, and opportunities to advance conservation. Cost: \$10 donation at the door for lunch; cash or check made out to HCMN. Registration is required by October 4; note if a vegetarian lunch is preferred. To register or for questions, contact Craig Childs at craig.c.childs@gmail.com or 210-286-2674..

FRIDAY, OCT. 6 7-9PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AUDITORIUM, BOERNE
AT17-223 OWLERS & GROWLERS
 Craig Hensley will speak on the anatomy, diet, and lives of owls and then lead an "owl prowl." Cost: Adult members \$8, non-members \$10; Teens \$5; Under 12 free.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11 1:15-2:15PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE
AT17-176 FORBS
 John Huecksteadt will address how to identify native forbs of the Hill Country.

FRIDAY, OCT. 13 9AM-4PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AUDITORIUM, BOERNE
AT17-219 MONARCH BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, AND CITIZEN SCIENCE
 This session will focus on monarch life cycle stages, threats to the monarch population, creating monarch habitats, projects and organizations that preserve and protect monarchs, and how to collaborate with international researchers to monitor populations. Lunch is included. Suggested donation: \$20.

SATURDAY, OCT. 14 10-11AM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER OUTSIDE AUDITORIUM, BOERNE
AT17-226 Snake Photography and Tagging
 Join citizen scientists for a PIT-tagging demonstration provided by herpetologist Dave Barker.

MONDAY, OCT. 23 6:30-7:30PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE
AT17-209 DECLINES IN NATIVE FAUNA AND FLORA
 Dr. Robert Howells, a fisheries research biologist with major interests in freshwater mussels and exotic fishes, shellfishes, and aquatic plants, will be the speaker at our monthly chapter meeting.

**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:
Lenore Langsdorf, Editor
LenoreLangsdorf@gmail.com

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Questions about our chapter?
Email Lisa Flanagan,
Membership Director
hillcountrymembership@gmail.com

