

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the

Texas Master Naturalist

Hill Country Chapter

January 2018 Volume 16 Number 1



T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



January 22 Meeting: Finding Common Ground and Advancing Positive Conservation Outcomes in Environmental Issues: Part 3

Craig Childs, Vice-President of the Hill Country Chapter, will speak on the Codes of Conduct and Ethics, the interplay of facts, values, and ethics, the centrality of conversation in achieving positive conservation outcomes, and a brief review of the literature on what works (and what doesn't work) for promoting success in environmental initiatives.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Lisa Flanagan

Happy New Year everyone! Welcome to 2018.

As the President of the chapter for 2018, I would like to introduce myself, and give you some background.

I grew up in an Air Force family, ending up in Texas in 1969. Feeling like a rolling stone for so many years, I am glad to call Texas home. My best years have been the ones in the Texas Hill Country, arriving in 1988, escaping Houston! Though I have always appreciated nature, I never knew that much about the wildlife and geology and such around me until my young son starting learning through his association with the budding Riverside Nature Center and Susan Sander. I started learning through osmosis as he brought his new interests home. I found myself yearning for a new interest of my own when he left home, and through another Master Naturalist learned of the wonderful classes he had taken, and was told it would be right up my alley. I applied for the next class, and the rest is history!

I am still working, so my time is divided, but as my own boss, I make time for Master Naturalists. As a member of the 2013 class, I became Class Rep for the 2014 year, then was tapped for Membership Director for 2015, and have now completed my third year in that role. As President, I hope to lead our Chapter in an increasingly growing involvement across all ten counties in our Chapter.

We have amazing members whose interests fall across many areas of expertise. Those of you who are still fairly new to our Chapter, don't be afraid to dive right into projects that interest you! If you don't know that much yet, project leaders and other members will be more than happy to help you learn and have a rewarding experience. And remember, Texas Parks and Wildlife and various nature centers and other groups could not do what they do without all the Master Naturalist volunteers that we provide.

We are thankful for those who step up to help lead our Chapter. Our 2018 officers and directors are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you, everyone, for the work you do! And to all our wonderful volunteers, have a great 2018!

Lisa Flanagan

Initial Certification

Pam Bird, Mackenzie Brown, Lisa Center, Laurence Doxsey, Rick Edwards, Matt Farmer, Bob Lodowski, Cynthia McKenna, Charleen Moore



Special Recertification

Veronica Hawk

Recertifications

Stephen Dodge, Cathy Downs, Mary Frushour, Diane Gierisch, Robin Graham, Tim Graham, Jan Grimes, Nancy Grimes, David Hopf, Pat Hopf, Chris Keating, Becky Leal, Susan Longacre, Ann Schneider

Milestones

Teresa Coleman, David Davies, Randy Fuentes, Robin May, Evelyn Vittone - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours

Craig Childs, Reggie Cox, Barbara Marquer -Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours

Mary Thomas - Gold Dragonfly, 1000 hours

Congratulations to members who received awards at the November meeting:

From left to right:

Cathy Binney, Nancy Kerr, Ray Dunton, Sharon Jay, Charles Smith Bob McKinney, Jan Unger, Debbie Windham, Richard Coleman



From left to right:

Veronica Hawk, Katy Kappel, Amanda Martin, Maura Windlinger, Margaret Reed, Kathy Daleo, Catherine Gaudin, Vivian Fink

The C.A.R.E. committee invites you to join fellow Master Naturalists for an informal social hour prior to our monthly meeting. Gather at Mamacita's in Kerrville at 4:30 and order dinner if you wish.

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley:

- 11/4/17 Some Friendly Snake Stories
- 11/11/17 How Man Can Alter Our Native Habitat—for Good or Bad
- 11/18/17 Common Hill Country Trees Other Than Oaks
- 11/25/17 Books Recommended for Winter Reading and Holiday Gifts
- 12/2/17 Animal Migrations in the Hill Country
- 12/9/17 What Did the Hill Country Look Like Before Europeans Came Here?
- 12/16/17 Encouraging Signs in Hill Country Land Management
- 12/23/17 Local Environmental Groups to Support in This Season of Giving
- 12/30/17 The Effects of European Man on the Ecology of Hill Country

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

NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meetings

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, Charlie Flatten, of the Hill Country Alliance, will speak on how much water we use, on what, where we get it, how we manage our limited water resources, and how we will provide water for our growing population.

Socializing at 6:30pm; program at 7pm.

Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, January 23, Dr. Hans Landel, Invasive Species Program Coordinator at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, will speak on "Combating Invasive Species Affecting Your Native Habitats" at our monthly meeting.

Social at 6:30pm; program at 7pm.

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

NPSOT Kerrville Chapter Monthly Meetings

On Tuesday, February 13, at 1:30, Ray Dunton will speak on Texas Native Bees.

Riverside Nature Center

150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville

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





Green Stormwater Infrastructure Seminar

Upper Guadalupe River Authority Auditorium

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

*Brought to you by the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, the City of Kerrville,
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and Hill Country Master Gardeners*

11:45 Arrival and Lunch

12:00 Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Fouad Jaber, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Introduction to Green Stormwater Infrastructure /Low Impact Development

- The urban environment and water quality
- Principles and benefits of green stormwater infrastructure

Green Infrastructure Development, Design, and Maintenance

- Incorporating green infrastructure into planning
- Choosing and designing best management practices (BMPs)
- Maintenance considerations
- Overview of green infrastructure resources

2:00 Closing Remarks and start of open Q&A – Bring your questions

This seminar will discuss strategies to control stormwater like rain gardens, permeable paving, infiltration basins, terracing, and rainwater harvesting.

We encourage both professionals and home owners to attend.

Free of charge and includes lunch!

Seating is limited, so pre-registration is required.

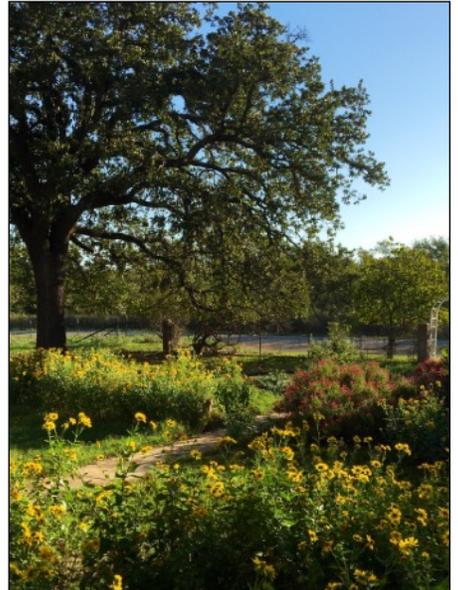
To register, call UGRA at 830-896-5445.

A Table of Plenty for ALL the Pollinators!

It was mid-October on a sunny day. I walked outside to see what was nectaring in my front flower beds, especially looking for Monarchs. Yes, there they were – dozens of our majestic Monarchs on their way to Mexico. But wait – also hundreds of Painted Ladies – yes, really – hundreds! Looking closer, I saw many less showy but VERY important non-Lepidoptera pollinators: Honeybees, Mason Bees, Leafcutter/Mortar/Resin Bees, Thread-waisted Wasps, Scoliid Wasps, Hover Flies. And so many other butterflies too: Bordered Patches, Queens, Cloudless Sulphurs, Little Yellows, Hairstreaks, Skippers! Wow! What had drawn all these nectar-seeking babies?

There were many nectar plants in bloom: various salvias, lantanas, velvetleaf mallow – but that was NOT where the pollinators were. They were swarming on the Cowpen Daises! (*Verbesina encelioides*)

Before I moved to the northwestern Hill Country, I was not familiar with the Cowpen Daisy. My first autumn in San Saba county in 2001, I noticed a large patch of yellow out in the coastal pasture and went to investigate it. I found a swath of golden yellow daisies which was swarming with butterflies and bees. I set about trying to discover what they were, and eventually identified them as *V. encelioides*. I collected some seeds, scattered them around the house, and fell in love with them.



These beautiful daisies are also known by the common names of Golden Crownbeard and Butter Daisy. They are part of the family Asteraceae (Aster), Genus *Verbesina*, which also contains Frostweed, another popular nectar plant for migrating Monarchs. Cowpen Daisies are annuals which are easily grown from seed. They have grayish-green toothed foliage, butter-yellow flowers with toothed ray flowers about two inches across, and grow two to three feet tall; making them perfect for the middle of the garden border.

Seeds sown in fall or spring will sprout in the early spring, and with sufficient spring rains, start blooming in April. If given sufficient moisture, they can bloom late-spring through fall. Otherwise, they will quit blooming during the summer heat and may wilt, but don't die. With the fall rains, they will perk up and put on a spectacular show, providing an abundance of nectar. While the Native Plants database says that they prefer full sun, they flourish in part-shade as well, and are happy in clay, loam, sand, or limestone soils. As a bonus, they are a larval host plant for the lovely Bordered Patch butterfly!

Another thing that I like about them is that they are so easy to work with in the garden. Once established, they readily reseed. Seedlings are easily thinned or transplanted, and rebound quickly after a move. Their common name, Cowpen Daisy, comes from two facts: they like disturbed soils, such as those around cow pens, and cows don't like their taste. Even better, **deer don't like their taste!**

If you are looking for an easy pollinator plant, add Cowpen Daisies to your garden. Seeds can be obtained from Native American Seed, or from me – I have plenty! (List of species classifications available by request.) Contact me at Donna.Dutton@sas.com.



From Gracie Waggener

Monarch Larval Monitoring Project (MLMP)

The 2018 training for the Monarch Larval Monitoring Project will be at the Lee and Ramona Bass Conference Center, located at the Kerr WMA in Hunt, on February 17. This workshop will be from 10:00 until 2:00, and will be four hours of Advanced Training.

Training is open to all chapter members and any friends or neighbors who are interested in learning about the project, who want to participate in any of the chapter approved MLMP projects, or want to start monitoring at their own property.

This is an opportunity to learn from our instructor, Cathy Downs, who will cover the steps for monitoring all of the data that volunteers help to collect along with monarch life cycles and types of milkweeds found in our chapter areas. There will also be a site visit to the Kerr MLMP monitoring area.

Since the Kerr is somewhat isolated, please bring your lunch. There are no restaurants or sandwich shops close by. We will have snacks, coffee, tea, and water.

To insure that there are sufficient materials, please send a note to me at gwaggener@flow-apps.com.

From Ruth McArthur

Birding Volunteer Opportunities

The Hill Country Master Naturalist Chapter sponsors ten bird census volunteer opportunities each month. These are fun and educational ways to contribute to the chapter and the various landowners. The purpose of each census is to provide data that the landowners/parks can use for future planning or to document success (or not) in management of the property.

Leaders of these censuses are knowledgeable, and many participants are even more knowledgeable and eager to share knowledge with newcomers. Each of us started with little to no knowledge of birds (especially me!) but with help from others and a bit of study we have progressed to being pretty good birders. All you need is a pair of binoculars and a willingness to learn.

Most of these censuses are limited to ten participants. Mo Ranch and Camp Capers allow twenty, as they are large enough to field two teams of ten. Size is limited to ensure a good birding experience. The censuses are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, except for Hill Country State Natural area. **Sign-up is required (see below).**

Scott Magee leads at Hill Country State Natural Area near Bandera. Pam Goolsby leads at Heart of the Hills Wildlife and Fisheries near Kerrville. Ken Butler leads at Roberts Ranch between Comfort and Fredericksburg, Cecilia Fuentes leads at Kreutzberg Canyon Natural Area (Kendall County Park near Boerne). Ruth McArthur leads at Joshua Springs Park and Preserve, James Kiehl Riverbend Park (Kendall County Parks near Comfort), Camp Capers (Episcopal retreat center near Waring) and Mo Ranch (Presbyterian retreat center near Hunt). I will be looking for a leader for Mo Ranch as it is 1.5 hours each way from my house.

For more information, or to be added to the distribution list for sign up, contact as shown below.

For the census at Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area, contact Tara Randle at TMRandle@swbell.net as you must complete additional volunteer paperwork to participate. For all others, contact ruth.f.mcarthur@gmail.com.

From Nyta Brown

Old Tunnel Volunteer Opportunity

Old Tunnel State Park has five new volunteer positions available for 2018. Volunteer opportunities at the park include assisting with evening programs and tour sales during bat season (March through December), working on various maintenance and trail projects as needed, and helping with outreach and education programs. Along with working at the park, volunteers are also given opportunities to go on educational trips and many other learning opportunities. There is also a volunteer appreciation awards program based on years of participation and cumulative hours.

All volunteers are required to attend the annual volunteer training that will be held in February this year. This training includes an update on bat research and information and also guest speakers who present topics relevant to nature and conservation.

Contact me at nyta.brown@tpwd.texas.gov. if you are interested in becoming a volunteer at Old Tunnel, The first five persons to reply will be contacted with more information regarding the training. Additional interested persons will be kept on a list in case someone drops out.

For more information, visit the website at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/old-tunnel>. Come get batty with us!

From Koy Coffey

Volunteer Orientation Workshop

On Saturday, February 3, we are hosting a Volunteer Workshop at Texas Tech University Junction Outdoor School from 10am - 1pm.

We'll tour the campus, discuss classes offered, talk about various ways volunteers can assist instructors, and have lunch (on us).

As an 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 also includes helping restore and maintain trails, as well as working in the Native Prairie Garden. You will be helping students learn about plants, birds, wildlife, soil, recycling, geology, energy, rivers, riparian areas, and the importance of the dark sky and water conservation.

It's going to be a fun filled spring and summer at TTUJO. If you and/or your friends are interested in making sure our next generation get to enjoy and respect the Great Outdoors as we do, come on out and help us teach them while having fun!

So that we can prepare correctly, please let us know by February 1 that you will be joining us. Send an e-mail to outdoorschool.junction@ttu.edu.

From Kristie Denbow and Claire Mitchell

Volunteer Projects Have New Alphanumeric Codes

Our approved volunteer projects have been updated with new alphanumeric codes to better align them with Volunteer Management System (VMS) categories.

Each project has a new code, but only a few project titles changed with the update. The new titles are recognizable as related to the previous project.

Extensions were added to some projects to reflect the way members were recording hours for the project. You may see “FR”, “NPA”, “PO”, “RM”, or “TR”. These extensions follow our chapter’s standard alphanumeric code and are required on VMS by TPWD for federal grant reporting.

It is important that you record your volunteer hours using the most appropriate extension when multiple extensions are present. If the code has no extension, report all hours for each activity under the single code.

Keep your reports simple and brief. If you participated in a bird census simply enter “Bird census.” If you tended a native garden simply enter “tended native garden”. Keep it simple.

Your VMS Team works extraordinarily hard behind the scenes to keep our chapter in compliance with VMS requirements. We are audited by VMS and must make requested changes when hours are entered differently to the assigned extension. Use your best judgment when making an entry and you will help us tremendously.

Thank you to every member who takes time to enter their volunteer hours in VMS. Keep on reporting!

Hill Country Chapter VMS Team

Lisa Flanagan, Chapter President, hours approval
Claire Mitchell, Volunteer Projects Director, hours approval
Reggie Cox, Membership Director, hours approval
Sandy Leyendecker, data management
Kristie Denbow, project management
Brenda Fest, hours approval

Easy Tips for Identifying Projects and Entering Hours in VMS

Every approved volunteer project has an alphanumeric code preceding the project title, for example: **CC-01-A**.

The letter pair (**CC**) identifies the project county: CC is Cross-County, BD is Bandera, ED is Edwards, and continuing through our ten counties.

The numeric pair (**01**) denotes the VMS site category. “01” equals TPWD and state sponsored projects. “02” equals Nature/Environmental Education sites. Our sites are numbered 00 to 12. The VMS site category list is posted on our website: <https://txmn.org/hillcountry/vms/> .

continued on next page

The letter (**A**) indicates the project title.

Some projects have an extension; for example, CC-01-B-**FR**.

The two or three letter extension assigns the TPWD Federal Reporting Category:

FR- Field Research

NPA- Nature/Public Access

PO- Public Outreach

TG- Technical Guidance

TR- Direct Training

RM- Natural Resource Management

CC-01-B-FR is a cross-county project sponsored by TPWD for Short-term Service in field research.

Remember these basics to determine where your hours best fit.

FR = any data collection in the field: censuses, studies, data entry

NPA = gardens, trails, interpretive walks

PO = booths, events, activities where people come and go

TG = providing advice, LMAP, board work

TR = teaching or training

RM = natural resource management.

Feel free to email VMS Projects Management questions to Kristie at denbow@gvtc.com .

From Paula Harley

Greetings From the Advanced Training Director

As with most all things human, change is inevitable. In just two short weeks, I have gone from curious, to cautiously hopeful, to disappointed, pleasantly surprised, and back to hopeful again; as I endeavor to develop AT descriptions for all Master Naturalists to enjoy. Fortunately, there are other far more experienced individuals within the organization to assist and support me.

You may have noticed a change to your AT e-mail notification. As there are limits to my emailing capability, I will be sending out just one weekly notice, which will contain possibly more than one AT opportunity. The body of the notice will provide an AT number, title, date, and possibly, location, referenced in chronological order. You are encouraged to look at the HCMN calendar for the complete information.

If you are inclined to submit an AT for approval, please do so as early as possible. As I will not be able to get every AT out in an email due to the once a week announcement, your submission may only make it to the calendar. But it will make it to the calendar! I hope to learn with each of you from these AT opportunities within our outstanding organization, and look forward to another exciting year among such talented, dedicated, and passionate individuals.

From Charles Laird

New Texas Master Naturalist Speciality Certification

In keeping with its concerns about issues relating to the impact of the increasing demands on Texas' limited water resources the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has developed a new speciality certification program dealing with issues involving Texas water and aquatic sciences. Persons completing the required study and activity requirements will be certified as Texas Waters Specialists and can focus more of their TMN activities in this area if they wish.

There is no monetary cost for the training but it does require an investment of time. The TPWD has developed a study manual which is a downloadable pdf that can be printed out. The manual will be used for a group study curriculum. We will put together a small group meeting to go over the various chapters of the manual following a challenge question format. The time requirement for the small group study is estimated at 15-20 hours. In addition the 2018 training will include six webinars which will take about that many hours. Also, at the 2018 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting there will be some required Texas Waters events and a field trip that are part of the required training for certification.

The Texas Waters Specialist Certification is not simply acquired by undergoing training, but like the TMN program as a whole, it also has advanced training and service requirements in order to acquire and maintain your Texas Waters Specialist certification. However, since this is a "speciality" within the Texas Master Naturalist Program, the speciality hours dovetail into the TMN hours so you can earn your TMN requirements both in this speciality and elsewhere. The Texas Waters AT requirement for the Texas Waters Specialist Certification is eight hours. In addition, 10 hours of approved Texas Waters service project work is required. Both of these are annual requirements.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife website has a Texas Waters Specialist page that will provide you with more information: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist>. Note the FAQ link at the bottom of webpage; it is worth your while if you have more questions. For more information, contact me at lairdcharles@gmail.com.



CIBOLO
Nature Center & Farm

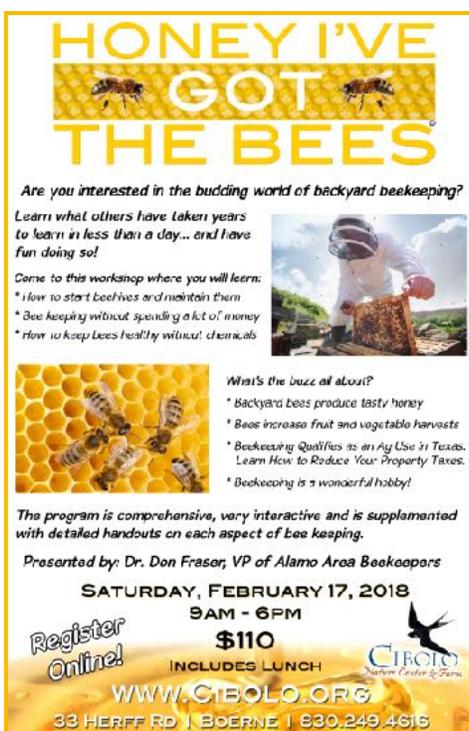
You can make a lasting impression on the lives of thousands of children!



WE WANT YOU!
BECOME A VOLUNTEER EDUCATOR
IN OUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

AT THE CIBOLO NATURE CENTER
Wednesday, January 31, 9am - 2pm

Register via: Stephanie@cibolo.org
140 City Park Road, Boerne, TX 78006
830.249.4616 - WWW.CIBOLO.ORG



HONEY I'VE GOT THE BEES

Are you interested in the budding world of backyard beekeeping?
Learn what others have taken years to learn in less than a day... and have fun doing so!

Come to this workshop where you will learn:

- * How to start beehives and maintain them
- * Bee keeping without spending a lot of money
- * How to keep bees healthy without chemicals



What's the Buzz all about?

- * Backyard bees produce tasty honey
- * Bees increase fruit and vegetable harvests
- * Beekeeping Qualifies as an Ag Use in Texas. Learn How to Reduce Your Property Taxes.
- * Beekeeping is a wonderful hobby!

The program is comprehensive, very interactive and is supplemented with detailed handouts on each aspect of bee keeping.

Presented by: Dr. Don Frason, VP of Alamo Area Beekeepers

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018
9AM - 6PM
\$110
INCLUDES LUNCH

Register Online!

WWW.CIBOLO.ORG
33 HERFF RD | BOERNE | 830.249.4616



Birding Beyond the Basics
Boost Your Bird Watching Skills!

Learn from some of the best birders in the Alamo region as they present the techniques that have helped them progress from amateurs to expert birders.



Saturday, February 24, 2018
9 am - 12 pm
\$20 members / \$25 non-members

Register Online!

WWW.CIBOLO.ORG
140 CITY PARK RD | BOERNE | 830.249.4616

Learning About Animal Tracks at the Kroc Center

Master Naturalists volunteers Teresa Coleman, Kathy Daleo, Chris Lienhard, Pam Lienhard, Martha Miesch, Clarence Reed, and John Sloan helped our program leaders, Donna and Angelo Falzarano, set up the classroom and listened carefully to their explanation of how the students would learn about animal tracks and create tracks of their choice to take home. The volunteers were intrigued with the process and listened intently so we would be prepared to help. When the students arrived, they sat on cushions on the floor in front of the leaders' table. Donna showed them the wooden carvings of a bear, two wolves, and an ocelot that Angelo had created when he worked at the Ft. Worth Zoo. She explained that she and Angelo had used a mixture of ingredients to make clay that could be placed in a paper bowl and molded by hand until it was smooth. Then the students could take their molded clay to the table with Angelo's carved wooden tracks to make an imprint. Angelo explained that many times animals are not physically seen, but scat, tracks, browse on native plants, and odor is detected. After each child's name was on each bowl along with the animal's name, Donna poured in a carefully blended mixture of water and Plaster of Paris.

As the students' animal tracks were drying on the table, they divided into small groups and played a game of identifying the front and hind tracks of certain animals. They received stars to stick on their shirts depending on how many they correctly identified. When it was time to line up to return to the main building for parents and caregivers to pick up them up, the students were instructed to handle their tracks carefully and allow them to dry overnight. It was easy to see how proud they were of what they had learned and the work they had completed that day.



The View from Rusty Bend



Guadalupe reflections

At Rusty Bend, October light was defined by the slant of the sun, but now a mystical change occurs as the light shines from *within* the trees. Even on a dreary day, the Texas Ash flame with color, the Cypress bleed rust, and the Fall Elm glow all bittersweet. With the wind, the elms shed a flickering gold confetti as if to grace an autumn parade.

This golden energy is contagious. In addition to our elderly white-nosed armadillo, we have a new youngster, we've taken to calling "Frolic." He is a riot to watch in the yard. He lopes from edge to edge, he pounces on roots, he reaches up to scratch his belly with a back foot. He flings fire ants from his ears with a somersault. He is such an efficient bug finder that the grey fox follows him around the yard, nibbling daintily at his leftovers.

Perspective

*Osprey,
your wings unfold, wider than I am tall,
your mask so dashing
as you balance on a bone of tree
facing upstream.
In slow motion, you scratch the barbed
scales
of your right leg with your left*

right left

*You ponder a lunch of sunfish,
sliding your head left and right,
like a bead on an abacus.
Determine depth, distance, angle—
before a plunge,
beak framed by feet,
precision required. Head skate*

right left

*Does that fish know he's wet?
Is your flying a way of breathing?
Behind, you hear a splash—
swivel your head downstream
like a demon with no bones.
Back to lunch*

right left

now— dive

continued on next page

The fox comes by almost daily and if something is different, she takes notice. I had left a dolly by the garden for moving large rocks. She tips up to it and sits erect as a sphinx. Serene, she looks it up and down. Cocks her head right and left. After some time, she decides the contraption has passed muster, then she rubs her cheeks on the wheels, again and again. Hello, dolly.

Other animal behavior seems very purposeful. The Whitetail bucks are frisky and show off for their does by shredding my Cenizo, as if it was some kind of threat to their masculinity. The mockingbird denudes the Possumhaw of its berries, quadrant by quadrant. After a hunter's gunshot, count to fifty and here come the ravens, headed straight to the gutpile. Their glottals sound celebratory as they fly over. Becaw!

The predators are moving. Foxes and bobcat trot by, then we hear the coyotes at night. I watch a young Red-tail Hawk in the cypress tree, as he hunkers down as if to disappear. I look up, as a Bald Eagle glides by, his wingspan and demeanor mighty and memorable.

So we learn from our visitors how to ready for winter. Borrow light from the trees, put it where it is needed and when the occasion arises—don't be afraid to do a little dance, or maybe let go and dive!



What happens when you are still

Poem, 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, her muse, 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

CIBOLO
Nature Center & Farm

Thirst for Nature

Every Third Thursday at 7:00pm

February 15: Bees	July 19: Birds of Prey
March 15: Bats	August 16: Weather
April 19: Stargazing	September 20: Trails of Ales
May 17: Snakes	October 18: Creepy Crawlies
June 21: Backyard Wildlife	November 15: Owl Prowl

140 City Park Road, Boerne, TX
Adults: \$10, CNC&F Members: \$8, Kids \$5, Under 6: Free
Season Tickets: \$75
Admission includes a drink and a kid's craft
Tickets available in our Visitors Center or
online at www.cibolo.org



Advanced Training

MONDAY, JANUARY 22 7-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY AUDITORIUM, KERRVILLE
AT18-004. FINDING COMMON GROUND AND ADVANCING POSITIVE CONSERVATION OUTCOMES IN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: PART THREE

Craig Childs contends that adherence to our Codes enhances our ability to be effective communicators who provide an alternative to the toxic nature of political discourse in our society. He will discuss the interplay of facts, values, and ethics, the centrality of conversation in achieving positive conservation outcomes, and what works (and doesn't work) in promoting success in environmental initiatives.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22. CIBOLO NATURE CENTER (CNC), BOERNE
AT18-005. NATURE BOX WORKSHOP

Volunteers lead or help with elementary grade activities in the Boerne elementary classroom as part of the Nature Box Program. Topics include: Buffalo and Prairies, Watersheds, and Insects. All materials are provided and curriculum is aligned with current TEKS. Cost: \$15/person. Free to Volunteers

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 6:30-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, FREDERICKSBURG
AT18-011 COMBATTING INVASIVE SPECIES AFFECTING YOUR NATIVE HABITAT

Dr. Hans Landel, Invasive Species Program Coordinator at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, will advise Hill Country residents on how to help in battling the spread of destructive invasives.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24 6:30-8PM BACA CENTER, ROUND ROCK
AT18-013 SKYWARN TRAINING

This is the first in a five session course offered by the National Weather Service. It will also be offered in Llano County, starting on March 20, and in Kerr County, starting on April 12. NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Training is free and typically lasts about two hours. Topics include the basics of thunderstorm development, fundamentals of storm structure, identifying potential severe weather features, what information to report and how to report it, and basic severe weather safety. For more information, contact Paul Yura, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, at 830-629-0130 ext 223 or email paul.yura@noaa.gov.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 9AM-5PM NORRIS CONFERENCE CENTERS, AUSTIN
AT18-018 SEVENTH ANNUAL BEEKEEPING SEMINAR

The mission of this seminar is to educate people of all experience levels in sustainable science-based bee husbandry and to provide support to worthy bee charities. Cost: \$60. For further information and to register, contact Lance Wilson, lw@ausapts.com, 512-619-3700.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 8AM-3PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER (CNC), BOERNE
AT18-015 FIRE ECOLOGY WORKSHOP

Experts in prescribed burning will provide everything we need to know to conduct a prescribed burn. This workshop is hands-on with fire equipment, allowing participants to take part in the process of creating a firebreak by using fire to prepare backlines as well as participate in an actual burn (weather permitting.) You will also learn about resources and sensible strategies that minimize risks while helping to meet management goals. \$25 for CNC Members ; \$30 for Non-Members; \$20 for Members of the Hill Country Prescribed Burn Association. (Memberships are available.) For further information and registration, contact Ben Eldredge, <ben@cibolo.org>, 830-249-4616.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31 11:45AM-2PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE
AT18-017 GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE SEMINAR

An introduction to green infrastructure, an approach to water management that protects, restores, or mimics the natural water cycle. Free and includes lunch. Go to <http://www.ugra.org/pdfs/StormwaterFlyer.pdf> for preregistration, which is required.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 10AM-1PM TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, JUNCTION
AT18-014 TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY OUTDOOR SCHOOL VOLUNTEER TRAINING WORKSHOP
Outdoor School Volunteers assist with educational activities that are based on STEM curricula. We'll tour the campus, discuss classes offered at the Outdoor School, share ways to assist with programs, and have lunch (on us). For further information and to register, contact Koy Coffey koy.coffey@ttu.edu, 806-834-5625.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 7-8PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE
AT18-024 WATER 101
Charlie Flatten with the Hill Country Alliance will discuss how much water we use and on what, where we get our water, how we manage our limited water resources, and how we will provide water for our growing population at the monthly meeting of the Boerne chapter of NPSOT.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 7-8:30PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE
AT18-001 THIRST FOR NATURE: BEES
This is an overview of bumble bee natural history and Texas species identification, along with a tutorial on how to use iNaturalist and/or Bumble Bee watch. Cost: Adults: \$10, CNC&F Members: \$8, Children: \$5, Ages six and under, free. For further information, contact Joely Cifre, volunteer@cibolo.org, or 830-249-7230.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 10AM-2PM KERR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, HUNT
AT18-006 MONARCH LARVAL MONITORING PROJECT (MLMP) TRAINING
Volunteers help track the monarch butterfly population, migration, and the native plants necessary for sustaining their population. This training for chapter members, by Cathy Downs, will cover the monarch butterfly and the challenges that it faces, along with native milkweeds and nectar plants. It prepares volunteers to help with the approved MLMP projects in our area or create one on their own property. To insure that there are sufficient materials, please RSVP to Gracie Waggener, gwaggener@flow-apps.com.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 1-5PM KYLE CITY HALL, KYLE
AT18-022 RAINWATER HARVESTING AND TURF MANAGEMENT TRAINING
Attendees will learn about the design and installation of residential rainwater harvesting systems and appropriate turf and landscape species based on local conditions. The same program will be given the following day in San Antonio. Seating is limited; preregister at <https://hlhw.tamu.edu/workshops/2018/kyle/>.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 1-5PM AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE, SAN ANTONIO
AT18-022 RAINWATER HARVESTING AND TURF MANAGEMENT TRAINING
See above for details. Preregister at <https://hlhw.tamu.edu/workshops/2018/san-antonio/>.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 9AM-2PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE
AT18-025 BIRDING BEYOND THE BASICS
Tom and Patsy Inglet will present the techniques that have helped them progress from amateurs to expert birders. Cost: Members: \$20; Non Members: \$25. For more information, contact Ben Eldredge ben@cibolo.org or 830 249 8616. To register, go to <https://cibolo.org.presencehost.net/experience/events/calendar.html/event-form/birding-beyond-the-basics/26742/tickets>.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 8AM-3PM LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER, AUSTIN
AT18-019 NPSOT SPRING SYMPOSIUM
Pre-registration is required; for more information, go to state@npsot.org or call 830-997-9272. Cost, \$60; \$50 for members; includes a light breakfast, box lunch, and access to the Wildflower Center gardens.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 7-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE
SEE THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS

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.



Questions about our chapter?
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