

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

March 2018 Volume 16 Number 3



T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



MARCH 26 MEETING: RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE: A NEW INITIATIVE

Richard Heilbrun, the Conservation Outreach Program for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, will introduce the Recovering America's Wildlife campaign, which has the potential to provide a substantial and unprecedented level of resources for conservation organizations to restore, recover, and conserve wildlife communities, educate our citizens, and engage the public. He will discuss opportunities for participating in this new and potentially transformative initiative.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . Lisa Flanagan

Remember the Pollinators!

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

We seem to be moving out of the cold winter weather into the Spring weather that makes us want to get our hands into the dirt again. The live oaks have dropped their old leaves, and are now heavy with blooms (pollen – aaaa-CHOO!) Other flowering trees and shrubs are busy beautifying the landscape, and the plant nurseries are busy.

There are those who say, "Don't plant until after Easter! We may get one more freeze!" It has happened often enough to heed that warning. Others say to watch the mesquite. When it leafs out, you are safe to plant. Interesting theories abound!

I want to concentrate this year on my pollinator garden. Pam Lienhard and her crew, and Richard Coleman's pollinator pocket gardens project, are two that encourage us to use the right plants to attract the pollinators... butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, etc. Those of us wanting to help the monarchs to thrive as they pass through our region want to get milkweed into everyone's list. Some nurseries sell antelope horns and such, or get them online as seedlings to be nurtured and planted outside when they can survive. Ambitious people start them from seed. Cathy Downs is certainly doing her part to educate people on how to do this.

Master Naturalists believe in going native, though some still use some adaptive plants. Please be sure that if you buy from a nursery, you ask if they have been treated with systemic pesticides. If so, DON'T BUY THEM! If a monarch lays eggs on these, the caterpillars will hatch, eat the leaves, and DIE. It takes a good six months for those pesticides to leave the plants.

A garden planted with perennials will reward you year after year with blooms and the pollinators they attract. Annuals will reseed themselves if not mown down before seeds are ready, and again, will reward you year after year. Our yards may look a little ragged until we can mow, but this is the price we pay, as well as the complaints we might get from neighbors who have perfectly groomed yards. Chill out, right?

Have your compost ready and get busy! And enjoy!

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Terry Lashley

Recertification

Joe Braley, Susan Clark, Richard Coleman, Reggie Cox,
Rose Ellis, Brenda Fest, Paula Harley, Gracie Waggener, Kathy Ward



Congratulations to members who received awards at the February meeting:

From left to right: Sandy Leyendecker, John Adams, Allan Howard,
Rachel Thompson, Katy Kappel, Lucy Griffith

From Lisa Flanagan

Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter
2018 Board of Directors



Lisa Flanagan,
President



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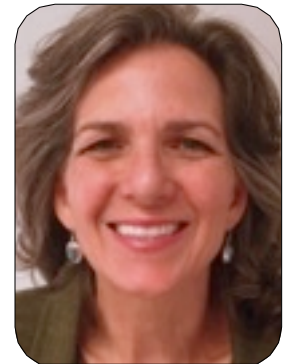
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Claire Mitchell,
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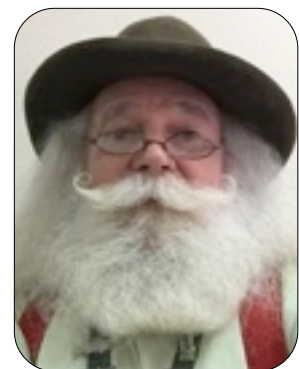
Leslie Hannah,
2018 Class
Director



Katy Kappel,
2017 Class
Representative



Brenda Fest,
Immediate Past
President



Vern Crawford,
State
Representative

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns
by Jim Stanley:

- 2/3/18 Understanding Farming,
Ranching, and Wildlife
Management in Texas
- 2/10/18 The Odyssey of Atom X,
by Aldo Leopold
- 2/17/18 Biodiversity: More
Complicated, and Perhaps
More Important Than We
Thought
- 2/24/18 Water: Where it is, Where
It Comes From, Where
We Want It

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



Native Plant Society of Texas - Kerrville Chapter
&
Riverside Nature Center invite you to...

SPRING 2018

Native Plant Sale & Festival

Saturday
April 21st
9am - 2pm

Free
Family
Fun



Native Plant Sale

- Native Plants selected to thrive in our climate & soil
- Plant experts to answer questions & offer advice
- Save! One day tax-free shopping for plants & gifts

All net proceeds benefit RNC
& NPSOT education efforts.

9-9:50am: **Wildflowers and Pollinators:
Making Connections**

Join Park Interpreter and Naturalist Craig Hensley from Guadalupe River State Park for an introductory look at the inter-relationships between our Hill Country wildflowers and pollinators. You'll learn which wildflowers provide the greatest benefit to bees and butterflies.

10-11am: **Bugs-R-Us**

Ranger Craig is ready to head into the wilds in search of butterflies, dragonflies and other six-legged critters. We'll provide the nets and a great deal of learning and fun as we explore the world of insects eye-to-compound eye.

Informative Displays

Ask the Plant Expert
Hill Country Master Naturalists
Hill Country Master Gardeners
UGRA- Water Quality & Conservation
Glory Garden * Monarch Watch
Hill Country Archeological Association
Texas Hill Country Beekeepers
RNC * NPSOT-Kerrville Chapter



Kids' Activities

Check Website for Details



11am-1:30pm

For More Details: 830-257-4837
www.riversidenaturecenter.org

150 Francisco Lemos Street • Kerrville, Texas 78028

From Scott Richardson



The First Annual South Llano River State Park Birding Festival

is sponsored by the Friends of the SLRSP, and we're looking for volunteers on April 28 and 29.

Help is needed to staff the four bird blinds at scheduled times and to help visitors with basic bird ID. Volunteers are also needed for staging areas and as roving emergency contacts on the walks.

Volunteers who serve a total minimum of four hours will be given a volunteer's birding festival t-shirt to wear, lunch on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Volunteers will also be given a free parking sticker for the park and be able to attend the afternoon public special events.

To learn more go to: <https://www.facebook.com/slrspbirdingfestival/?ref=bookmarks>. If interested, or if you have questions, contact me at southllanoriverbirdingfestival@gmail.com or by calling 325-475-2271 or 830-459-2271. I need to know how many t-shirts to buy and how much food to order! So, please contact me before before March 28 to receive a t-shirt. For the free lunch and breakfast, volunteers must commit before April 14. The volunteer code is KN-01-A.



Aquatic Weed Management

This program will be held April 4, 2018 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, in the Commissioners Court Room on the third floor of the Kendall County Courthouse (201 E. San Antonio Ave, Boerne, TX). Dr. Todd Sink from College Station will discuss Aquatic Weed Management in ponds to have them in good shape for summer fishing. The program will provide 3 CEU'S toward a private applicators license from Texas Department Agriculture. The cost will be \$10.00 and will be collected the day of the program. If you have any weeds that you want identified, please bring for ID. As a follow up to this program, mark your calendar for May 31, 2018 when we will have Dr. Mike Masser to discuss pond management and stocking rates for ponds. Be on the lookout for further info in the future on this program. We hope that you can attend both programs. If you have questions, please contact our office: Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office, Stephen Zoeller CEA/ANR Phone 830-249-9343.



NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, April 6, Dr. Tania Homayoun will be our speaker. The title of her talk is "Texas Nature Trackers: Discovering Populations & Documenting Change for Conservation." Socializing at 6:30pm, program at 7pm
Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, March 27, Bridget Langdale will speak on "Dark Skies and Why They Matter." Social at 6:30pm, program at 7pm
Fellowship Hall of Memorial Presbyterian Church
601 North Milam Street, Fredericksburg

NPSOT Kerrville Chapter Monthly Meeting

On April 10 at 1:30, Chris Anderson will be our speaker. His topic is native plants.
Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville.

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

From Martha Miesch

Learning About Bats at the Kroc Nature Study Program

Master Naturalist volunteers Teresa Coleman, Pam Lienhard, Martha Miesch, Clarence Reed, and John Sloan helped our program leader, Wilma Teague, set up the classroom and display pictures that Nyta Brown uses at Old Tunnel State Park in Fredricksburg to teach children about bats. Wilma is a long time enthusiast and had lots of facts to share with the students and volunteers. The students quickly responded to the questions she asked them about these nocturnal creatures, and they learned many more interesting facts, such as that predators--racoons and snakes--eat bats, and that bats, depending on the species, eat moths, mosquitos, frogs, little fish, and scorpions. One of the boys in the class was a super star; he had read a book about bats and his hand shot up every time a question was asked.

Wilma had some framed items the students could examine closely, such as a bat skelton with wings that resembled a large human hand. She also had specimens that were framed and replicas of bats that they could hold.



From Lucy Griffith

50th Edition: The View From Rusty Bend



A prodigious Guadalupe fog

Ode to a Brush Pile

I owe you an apology.

So critical: I saw laziness, neglect, an unfinished chore.
That's messy. That's sloppy. Someone needs a bonfire.

Now seen for the haven you are: hosting sparrows, towhees,
a spa for songbirds, offering overnight stays—

winter retreats with appetizers for wrens,
sanctuary for saplings. Your thorny battlements

protection from predators, with towers of prickles and sticks.
A deer-proof castle, where prairie grasses flourish,

wave their silky flags. Now, Brush Pile, you are prized.
The only fire I want to see: Flame-leaf Sumac

seeking the sky
from the shelter of your keep.

In February, waiting for spring, you take your color where you can. Day after day of prodigious fogs: fogs with personality, nearly animate. They slip a black and white filter over Rusty Bend. Andy and I have a new window on the feeders and we sit there each late afternoon. Cardinals hang like neon ornaments in the persimmon. Goldfinch suspend like charms on a bracelet waiting their turn to mob the Nyjer seed. White-crowned Sparrows nudge about the grass in their funny helmets. A “peleton” of sparrows? We watch Cedar Waxwings water at the birdbath, in a wave, like synchronized swimmers. Mr. Hermit Thrush drinks with authority while mockingbird dips and swallows, oh so dainty. Andy calls it our “Airquarium”.

continued on next page

For small pleasures in February, I stroll among the rosettes, follow scuffle sounds: a cottontail under a hackberry turns each leaf with one paw looking for tender shoots. Bunny looks like he's waving at the leaves. We now call the young armadillo *Divot*. He leaves a trail of mini potholes behind him. Lastly, we have a welcome tenant after three years of vacancy. A Screech Owl has taken residence in the box. When her face fills the hole, we can't take our eyes off her. She's the color of Live Oak bark, but her eyes are yellow gold.

Still, my eyes hunger for green growing things. The late winter blues are hard to kick. Here is a recipe:

Cure for a Late Spring

1. Pick a window, place a chair near, a welcoming kind of chair.
2. Hang feeders outside near brush or make a brush pile.
3. Add a bird-bath, lean a branch upon it for perching.
4. Put your feet up.
5. Watch birds come and go.
6. Feel your heart rate slow and stabilize.
7. Ride those alpha waves.
8. Look for patterns.
9. Sit. Stare. Sit some more.
10. Take your medicine.

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, 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.

Comments welcome at doctorluz@hctc.net



Rosettes underfoot

WELCOME

Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend and contribute to Board of Directors meetings. The board meets at the Riverside Nature Center at 2:30 on the Monday of the chapter's monthly meeting.

Advanced Training

TUESDAY, MARCH 20 9:30-10:30AM HUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, HUNT
AT18-106 INTERGENERATIONAL STEWARDSHIP: LAND RESTORATION AT RUSTY BEND RANCH
Certified Master Naturalist Lucy Griffith will present sustainable practices for land management and restoration, including a "show and tell" sharing the essential tools of the steward.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20 10:30AM-12:00PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE
AT18-096 BUTTERFLIES IN THE CANYONLANDS OF BANDERA COUNTY
Merry Baker Langlinais, author and butterfly enthusiast, will discuss her experience with the Butterflies in the Canyonlands of Bandera County. Copies of her book (same title) are available at the RNC Gift Shop.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24 8:30AM-1:30PM COKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SAN ANTONIO
AT18-089 WATERSAVER LANDSCAPE DESIGN
The workshop will include four presentations on xeriscaping, design, improving soil, and plant selection along with one-on-one idea consultations. Cost, \$30 per person; \$50 per household of two people. The tuition includes three full-color plant and landscape guides. For further information, go to info@gardeningvolunteers.com or call 210-251-8101.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24 9AM-11AM GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK, SPRING BRANCH
AT18-075 SATURDAY MORNING HONEY CREEK HIKE
Join one of our trained Honey Creek Guides for our weekly Saturday hike to beautiful Honey Creek. Along the way you will learn about both the cultural and natural history of the area. Please meet at the Rust House inside the park. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the educational activities supported by the Friends group, in addition to the regular admission to the park of \$7 per person (13 and above). For further information, call 830-438-7653.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24 8AM-4:15PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER (CNC), BOERNE
AT18-062 LEVEL I NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
Become familiar with 45 native Texas plants recommended for your landscape and five plants to avoid. Please wear clothing and shoes appropriate for the weather and walking outside on slightly uneven paths. You may also need a bottle of water, insect repellent, and/or sunscreen. After the field portion of the class at CNC, students will go to the Boerne Public Library for classroom presentations. The instructors are Kathy Ward, Brenda Fest, and Veronica Hawk. For further information and registration, contact Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, at meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512-589-1316.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24 8PM-10PM GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK, SPRING BRANCH
AT18-103 STORIES IN THE STARS
Join members of the San Antonio Astronomical Association and Park staff for a night of stargazing. We'll check out the Moon and other celestial wonders following a presentation at the Amphitheater located behind the Discovery Center. This program is free with a Park Pass or \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). For further information, call 830-438-7653.

MONDAY, MARCH 26 7-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE
AT18-094 RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSERVATION
Richard Heilbrun will present an overview of The Recovering America's Wildlife campaign, which has the potential to provide an unprecedented level of resources for conservation organizations to restore, recover, and conserve wildlife communities and habitats, educate our citizens, and engage the public.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27 1-2PM WEBINAR
AT18-077 MONARCH CONSERVATION: ENGAGING THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY
The Monarch Collaborative is working on partnerships with the farming and ranching communities that will support and enhance habitat for the monarch population. Speakers from the Monarch Collaborative, the Iowa Monarch Consortium, and Missourians for Monarchs will provide success stories on how to build a state plan that brings the agricultural community together with conservation partners.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG

AT18-055 DARK SKIES AND WHY THEY MATTER

Bridget Langdale will be the speaker at the monthly meeting of the NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter. She works with the International Dark Sky Organization and the Hill Country Alliance to increase public awareness about light pollution and to offer common sense solutions.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT18-064 PLANNING AND TIMING ARE CRITICAL FOR SAVING YOUR URBAN ASH FOREST

Dr. Cliff Sadof of the Department of Entomology, Purdue University, will give an update on the status of the emerald ash borer (EAB) as well as advances in treatment and management strategies. Please join the Webinar 15 minutes early so that you can register.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29 1-2:30PM WEBINAR

AT18-063 DROUGHT AND CLIMATE GALLERIES

The Office of Sustainability and Climate provides the tools, training, and resources needed to build resilience into landscapes in the face of a changing climate. Two galleries with maps, apps, and other resources have been developed to provide resource planners and managers with current and verifiable data for their plans and projects. Please join the Webinar 15 minutes early so that you can register.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 9AM-11AM GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK, SPRING BRANCH

AT18-075 SATURDAY MORNING HONEY CREEK HIKE

Join one of our trained Honey Creek Guides for our weekly Saturday hike to beautiful Honey Creek. Along the way you will learn about both the cultural and natural history of the area. See the March 24 listing (above) for complete information. For further information, call 830-438-7653.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 8-9:30PM GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK, SPRING BRANCH

AT18-085 BATS OF TEXAS

Join Park Ranger Craig Hensley to discover who they are and how they make their living. We'll use a bat detector to search for a few. Meet at the amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. Cost: free with a Park Pass or a \$7 daily pass (children ages 12 and under are free). For more information, call 830-438-7653.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3 7-8PM CIBOLO NATURECENTER, BOERNE

AT18-104 TEXAS NATURE TRACKERS: DISCOVERING POPULATIONS; DOCUMENTING CHANGE

Dr. Tania Homayoun will introduce the Texas Nature Trackers program and tell how it uses iNaturalist to support the Wildlife Diversity Program's conservation work on Species of Greatest Conservation Need. She'll discuss how iNaturalist users and bioblitz participants can be active partners in conservation.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4 9AM-4PM TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS

AT18-045 9AM-4PM KENT BUTLER SUMMIT

The Future of Regional Collaboration in the Hill Country: Working across boundaries on population growth, changing land use effects on water resources, and water supply infrastructure. For more information, contact Katherine Romans at Katherine@HillCountryAlliance.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5 8:30AM-3:30PM DOSS COMMUNITY CENTER, DOSS

AT18-096 TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE WILDLIFE FIELD DAY

This program provides the latest wildlife management information for Edwards Plateau Hill Country land managers. Individual registration is \$25. A catered lunch is included. RSVP by March 29 to the AgriLife Extension office in any of the participating counties. For more information and to RSVP, call 830-997-3452.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17 10:30AM-12:00PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE

AT18-097 BATS

Fran Hutchings, Director of Bracken Cave Preserve, will speak on why these amazing animals are so important to us. For more information, call 830-257-4837.

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.

T E X A S

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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

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



Questions about our chapter?

Email Lisa Flanagan,
Membership Director
hillcountrymembership@gmail.com

