

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

April 2018 Volume 16 Number 4



T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



APRIL 23 MEETING: YMCA ROBERTS RANCH:

A NEW TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROJECT

Jill Boyter will present an overview of the Roberts Ranch property and the process by which the baseline assessments, recommendations, and implementation of land management, educational programs, and recreational planning will be accomplished. Craig Childs will present specific volunteer opportunities for Master Naturalists to become involved at Roberts Ranch. The monthly meeting of the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter is free and open to the public. We meet in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's lecture hall, 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville. Socializing begins at 6:30; the program starts at 7:00.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . Lisa Flanagan

SPREAD THE WORD!

Many of you may have noticed that we have our application for the 2018 class online. How many people do you know who may want to take the class? Please let them know that we started taking applications online as of April 1, 2018, and we will continue to accept applications until June 30, 2018. We will accept up to 40 trainees, and classes will again be held at the UGRA lecture hall.

As I look back on my own experience in the class of 2013, one thing that stands out is the caliber of the speakers. I was definitely impressed!

The second thing was the members of the class...some of these people have become friends, others good acquaintances, and always people that I enjoy seeing again and again.

The third thing that impressed me was THE FOOD! OMG, Master Naturalists, even those in training, know how to eat! One question I had was what was the average weight gain during the twelve weeks of class? The spreads for the welcome reception and the commencement were good as well.

Moving on to active volunteering provided additional learning experiences, and further bonding. Unfortunately, all of us go in our own directions for volunteering and don't necessarily cross paths that often, especially those from counties a bit further out.

Great times to reconnect are the Annual Meeting in October where all state chapters come together for additional learning and fun time together. Michelle and Mary Pearl really knocked it out of the ball park in Corpus last year! I look forward to seeing what they come up with in Georgetown this year. I hope you will join us. And don't forget our December holiday party!

As always, take every opportunity to help people in the Hill Country learn about the area we live in, what opportunities we have to experience the wonders of the land and what lives on it, and how to be good stewards of it all. Remember our 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.

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Dora McDaniels, Lorraine Popp

Special Recertification - Class of 2017

Mackenzie Brown, Lisa Center, Kathy Daleo, Charleen Moore

Recertifications

Chris Anderson, Diana Armbrust, Robert Binney, Stephen Bishop, Dale Bransford, Norma Bruns, Julie Clay, Teresa Coleman, Tom Collins, Jane Crone, Ann Dietert, Larry Eskridge, Gary Fest, Cecelia Fuentes, Randy Fuentes, Bob Hanson, Tom Hynes, Diane McMahon, Martha Miesch, Lars Nelson, Lynda Nollkamper, Elsa Roberts, John Sloan, Paul Unger, Russell Vowell, Deborah Windham

Milestone Awards

Marylein Davies, Lynda Nollkamper - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly
Richard Coleman, Paula Harley - 500 hours, Brushed Silver Dragonfly



Congratulations to members who received awards at the March meeting:

From left to right: Gracie Waggener, Brenda Fest, Terry Lashley, Reggie Cox, Susan Clark, Joe Braly, Paula Harley, Kathy Ward, Richard Coleman

Milestone Highlights:
Chapter Members Who Received Recognition of Milestones
at the February Meeting



Lucy Griffith, a member of the Class of 2013, was recognized for her 500-hours of volunteer service. She is very knowledgeable about Hill Country trees, grasses, forbs and flowers and uses this knowledge as a team member of the Chapter's Land Management Assistance Program, which offers complimentary plant identification and land management assessment to Hill Country property owners. Lucy is also very interested in and knowledgeable about the birds that live in or migrate through our beautiful Hill Country. She has participated in monthly bird censuses at James Kiehl River Bend Park, and has monitored Eastern Bluebird nesting boxes at the park along with her husband, Andy Robinson, a fellow Master Naturalist.

Lucy is also a published poet, and authors a monthly feature entitled "The View from Rusty Bend" for our Chapter newsletter. The feature includes an original poem and reflective essay which captures the seasonal elements of Hill Country nature. In the March Chapter newsletter, Lucy presented the 50th edition of "The View from Rusty Bend" feature. Most recently, Lucy conducted training entitled "Intergenerational Stewardship: Land Restoration at Rusty Bend Ranch." The training reflects her hope that respect and appreciation of our beautiful hill country will be passed on to future generations, and that preservation and land stewardship will help maintain the pristine nature of the land where we live.

Sandy Leyendecker, a member of the Class of 2008, was recognized for achieving the Milestone of 2,500 hours of volunteer service. She has been the Data Manager for the Hill Country Chapter since 2009. In that capacity, she monitors the Advanced Training and Volunteer Hours of all Chapter members, and compiles data reports to reflect the Chapter's overall contributions to Parks and Wildlife objectives, and in order to recognize members who have reached volunteer hour Milestones, certifications and recertifications.

Sandy has volunteered at the Pollinator Garden at Kerrville-Schreiner Park and with the youth education programs at the Riverside Nature Center. Sandy has volunteered with the Texas Wildlife Association, specifically the LANDS (Learning Across New Dimensions in Science) program for youth. She is currently involved with preparation for the Riverside Nature Center spring plant sale, as well as with the RNC seed gleaner efforts. She is very involved in the activities of the Kerrville NPSOT Chapter along with her ongoing data responsibilities for our Hill Country Chapter.

Sandy says that her motivation to volunteer is derived from her love of nature, wildflowers, butterflies, and youth education.



The C.A.R.E. committee invites you to join fellow Master Naturalists for an informal social hour prior to our monthly meeting. We will gather at **El Sombrero de Jalisco restaurant, 303 S. Sidney Baker** in Kerrville at 4:30; order dinner if you wish.

From Reggie Cox, Membership Director

Training Classes Start in August - Apply Now!

The Hill Country of Texas is a spectacular and unique part of our state. Have you ever wondered what your part could be in keeping it natural or helping it heal? The Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. started the Master Naturalist program in order to train volunteers to participate in various projects and education programs. As a participant in the class you will start on the road to becoming a Master Naturalist, to volunteer on the projects that interest you, and to enjoy the privilege of teaching others how to become involved with the natural beauty of the Hill Country.

If you would like to participate in this learning experience, send in your application to join the 2018 Master Naturalist class. You will be learning from people who are leaders in the fields of plants, animals, riparian areas, geology, soils, grasslands, trees, climate, night skies, and so much more. You will learn about the Hill Country and the love these experts have for this unique area will be apparent in their words.

The class meets for twelve Wednesdays, starting on August 22. The class size is limited to 40 people so that you will have the opportunity to have a great experience and get to know your classmates. When I took the class in 2016, I wanted to learn a great deal about the Hill Country and how I could help with teaching and restoration efforts. I learned so much about where I live and how to share my learning with others while working in a pollinator garden or at a native plant sale. I was warmly welcomed to so many opportunities to join in projects like pollinator gardens, bird counts, butterfly counts, land stewardship, state park projects, wildlife management, and removing invasive plants from a creek. Do you want to learn to lead a hike at Enchanted Rock, Lost Maples Natural Area, or Honey Creek Natural Area; to participate in a night skies program, help maintain natural gardens, volunteer in one of the nature centers in our ten-county chapter, and so much more? The field trips during those twelve weeks will let you see for yourself all that goes on and how you can help.

Perhaps the most telling part of the depth of commitment to our Master Naturalist goals were the tears in the eyes of many of the presenters who shared them in their own lives by working to save the horned toad, Ridley sea turtle, rare plants, geology, and artifacts, so that their children will be able see them in nature. You will hear some special people asking you to find a project you love and get busy while you still can. I will never forget these speakers and what they had to teach.

If you would like more information, please contact me at (hillcountrymembership@gmail.com) .
If you are ready to apply, you will find the application on our website: txmn.org/hillcountry .

Do it for yourself and for your children. The deadline for submitting your application is June 30.
See you August 20 at the Welcome Reception!

The word "WELCOME" is written in large, colorful, 3D block letters. The letters are multi-colored with a gradient from blue to purple to pink to orange. They have a white outline and a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

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

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns
by Jim Stanley:

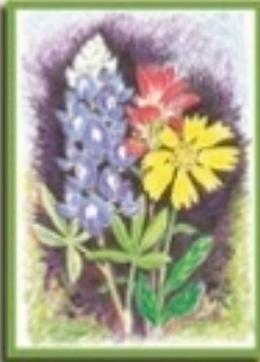
- 3/3/18 Can We Get Our Land Back Like It Was
in the Early 1800s?
- 3/10/18 Do All of These Drizzly/Fogy Days
Do Our Vegetation and Land any Good?
- 3/17/18 Animal Behavior: The More You Know,
the More Amazing It Is
- 3/24/18 The Natural Food Web. How All Things
Are Interconnected
- 3/31/18 Hill Country Oaks--More than Just Live Oaks

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 Lisa Flanagan



We all enjoy the bluebonnets at this time of year, but what a beautiful combination with antelope horns milkweed that our monarch butterflies need to lay their eggs on.

From Gracie Waggener

The Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center
invite you to attend our May Nature Series Workshop

Flowers, Feathers, and Stone

May 15, 2018, 8:00 am

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, Fredericksburg
Group Picnic Pavilion

Come and explore the wonders of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. We will start at the pavilion with a talk on the Geology of Enchanted Rock by Geologist Bill Lindemann, followed by a Bird Walk with Jane Crone and Pat Beecher or a Plant Walk with Chris Anderson and John Huecksteadt. (AT18-137)

When approaching from the south, the Group Picnic Pavilion will be on your left past the Park main entrance and the Ranger's Home. All entry fees can be paid onsite at the Pavilion, so there is no need to go to the office at the main entrance. Fees are \$7.00 for adults, children under 12 are free. State Park Passes can also be used. Please bring correct change, or plan to pay by check. Look for the Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center Sign at the pavilion entry gate.

This setting is "rocky," so wear sturdy shoes. Bring water, hat, walking stick, binoculars, and a picnic lunch to stay and enjoy the day.

Please specify your interest in either the Bird Walk or the Plant Walk when you register.

To register, contact Nancy Person at nancykperson@gmail.com or 210-913-2443.
This workshop will be limited to 20 participants on the bird walks and 30 on the plant walks.

From Joyce Studer, Project Coordinator

Dr. John Lipe Memorial Garden

The Dr. John Lipe Memorial Garden (GL-06-A) is located on the highly-visible county-owned property at Frederick Road and Llano Highway (SH 16) in Fredericksburg. The large beds around the USDA service building and parking lot are planted with native and adapted plants, all low water and low maintenance.

Many plants were planted by Dr. Lipe in the 90s. He was the first Ag agent to promote native plants in the Hill Country. Texas Native Plant Society Fredericksburg Chapter (NPSOT) installed more native plants and worked the garden for many years. The Hill Country Master Gardeners took over the entire garden a few years ago – it's a worthy project. The grounds of the Ag building contain native trees, shrubs, and native grasses, including an American Smoke Tree (*Cotinus obovatus*).

It's one of the best collections in Fredericksburg and is often used as an outdoor classroom. The USDA service center is heavily visited and folks stop by and ask questions, especially when we are tending the garden. We have seventy or so plants on our list and plant lists are available. Most plants have identification signs. The nearby nursery reports that people bring in plant samples and smart photos of the signs and plants and ask to purchase a similar plant.

A Master Gardener friend who is a horticulturist in Ingram quickly volunteered plants when he heard I had taken over the garden. Dr. Lipe was his mentor and had encouraged him to grow native plants.

I have submitted the Lipe Garden for certification in The Best of Texas Backyard Habitats Program. This program is a joint effort of the National Wildlife Federation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Texas Wildscape program, which allows Texans to certify under both programs with a single form. Best of Texas Backyard Habitat took the best of the two individual programs and pushed the bar a little higher, challenging Texas wildlife gardeners to create a habitat that seeks to maximize wildlife benefits and highlight sound conservation stewardship within the bounds of urban restrictions.

We can always use volunteers in the garden! Our regular service mornings are fourth Wednesdays. We usually start at 8:30. Our gardeners come when they can and we usually put in two to three hours. Most volunteers are Master Naturalists, NPSOT members, and Master Gardeners. Many of them volunteer at the Pioneer Museum NPSOT Garden. Tell your fellow Master Naturalists and friends to join us!

I can answer any questions you have. Email (joycestuder@gmail.com) or call me (830-685-3071 or cell 830-992-1030).

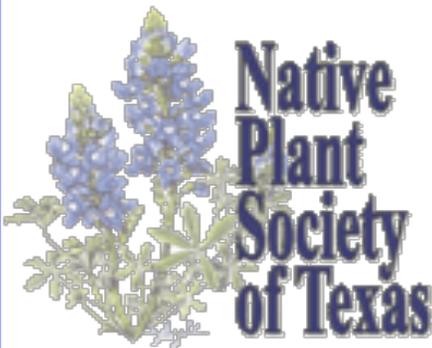




From Paula Harley, Advanced Training Director



Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers working on a combined AT/Volunteer event of selective weeding at the Junction Middle School Native Garden. We'll follow up with an "after" image when everything comes into bloom. (Project: KM-09-A)



NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, May 1, Michael Eason will be our speaker. The title of his talk is "Wildflowers of Texas," which is also the title of his newly released book. Socializing at 6:30pm, program at 7pm
Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne

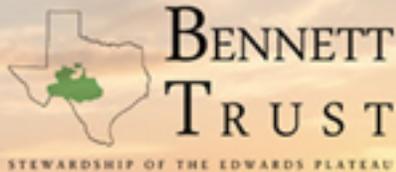
NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, April 22, Susan Sander will speak on "What Birds Have Taught Me About Plants" Social at 6:30pm, program at 7pm
Fellowship Hall of Memorial Presbyterian Church
601 North Milam Street, Fredericksburg

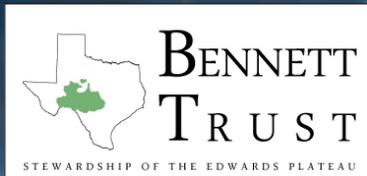
NPSOT Kerrville Chapter Monthly Meeting

The chapter will have field trips on May 8 and May 15 in lieu of our monthly meeting. Go to npsot.org/kerrville for further information.

These chapter meetings are free and open to the public.



Protecting the Natural Resources *of the Edwards Plateau*



5th Hill Country Land Stewardship Conference "Tools for the Trade"

April 26-27, 2018

YO Ranch Hotel and Conference Center
2033 Sidney Baker
Kerrville, Texas 78028

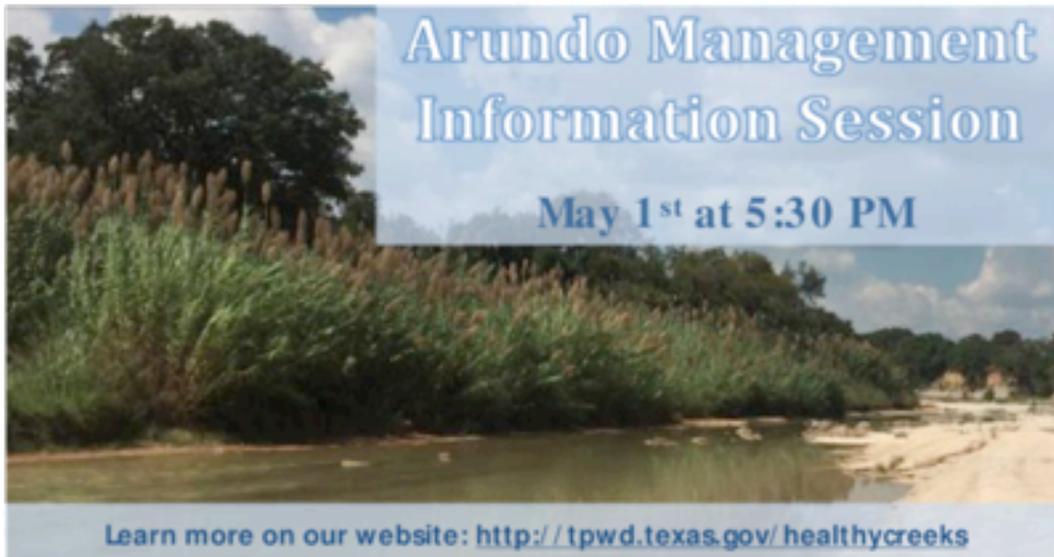


Conference Agenda

This year's event will be held at the fabulous YO Hotel in Kerrville. Day 1 will include discussion topics and hands-on opportunities regarding grazing, plant management tools (prescribed fire, herbicide, and mechanical control options), Texas landowner tax valuation options, grazing and hunting leases, fence laws, and predator management and ID. Day 2 involves "Your Choice" of tours to different parts of the Hill Country on board air conditioned charter buses:

- Tour A: Legacy Management, Hillingdon Ranch
- Tour B: Wine & Roses, Kerr County
- Tour C: Wildlife Ranch, Kerry County

For more information and to register, please visit:
BennettTrust.tamu.edu



The Healthy Creeks Initiative is providing no cost assistance to Guadalupe River watershed landowners to treat Arundo, an invasive plant causing damage in the Hill Country

Please attend the upcoming information session for landowners to learn more about receiving no cost assistance to treat Arundo

**Tuesday, May 1st, 5:30 PM at the UGRA Auditorium
125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028**

If you can not attend the information session on May 1st, please contact UGRA to discuss assistance for Arundo treatment
tbushnoe@ugra.org or (830) 896-5456 x227

The Healthy Creeks Initiative is a partnership with landowners to protect and improve habitat health along rivers and creeks in the headwaters of the Pedernales, Blanco, Medina, and Guadalupe watersheds.
Strong landowner support is important to the success of this initiative — so be sure to spread the word!

Learning About Early Native American Life in the Hill Country at the Kroc Center After School Program

Master Naturalist volunteers Teresa Coleman, Pam Lienhard, Martha Miesch, and John Sloan helped our program leader, Steve Stroutamire, set up the classroom. As a career geologist and enthusiastic anthropologist, Steve had lots of facts to share with the students. The Master Naturalists took turns taking hand-crafted items around the room so the students could exam each item carefully. The first was an arrow that Steve had copied. The students examined the arrowhead carefully and listened to the explanation of how early Americans used these as tools in harvesting bison, buffalo, and deer for food.



Steve then demonstrated how the atlatl was used to add distance and strength to the throw. The atlatl was also carefully passed around by a Master Naturalist. Steve also brought a couple of valuable flint arrows that could be examined to illustrate the sharpness of the stone that was ground to be an effective tool. He described how deer antlers had been used to make arrow heads.



Steve carefully placed a sheet on the floor of the classroom and unwrapped a grinding slab called a metate. He poured some dried beans, nuts, and acorns on the slab. He showed us how the early humans used a stone called a mano to grind the various items which were used to make meals for those living 1200 years ago in the Hill Country. He let the students take turns grinding some of the items. When he asked them questions concerning facts that had been discussed that afternoon, there was overwhelming evidence that they had paid attention to this part of our early history.



The View From Rusty Bend



Screech Owl Siesta

Image by Cindy Huyser

Dusk Duet

A pair of screech owls,
their simple silhouettes

traced against a dusky sky.
Modest as a child's drawing.

No screech. Just
the whimsy of a gentle whinny.

We answer back, human echoes
of their quavery calls.

We play catch with the plaintive sounds—
soft launch and capture.

Call and response.
Nickering together, to bring in the night

In March, if Claude Monet walked around Rusty Bend, his pockets would be stuffed with tubes of green. The landscape mimics his dappled brushstrokes, such interplay of light and broken color. We humans must forget as the months roll by how spring sings to us, then fades, and arises to surprise us each year. I'd forgotten how the Bald Cypress are festooned with burnt sienna catkins, the curve in the river becoming "Rustish" Bend for a few weeks.

I have wound up my "cedaring," as friend Milby calls it, for the season. Wandering forgotten pockets of the pasture with a sharpened pair of loppers feels like renewing an old friendship. Regrowth juniper needs regular attentiveness, same as a good friend. It's restorative to see what's new: what new grasses and new flowers have come back. I look for where erosion has healed or where it has found a new spot to steal the topsoil. I find new dens and wonder who lives below. I spot a deer-nipped Cedar Elm and protect it with dead branches. I hear my father's voice exclaiming about the Little Bluestem still thriving on very little rain. It's easy each day to see the land large scale, but a close relationship thrives in the details and forgotten spaces. So when I go "cedaring", I re-friend Rusty Bend, my companion of 52 years.

Hidden among the bright green splashes of color are construction projects, large to small. The ravens are nesting close to the house and have a nest as big as a baby pool. Day after day, trip after trip, delivery of materials on the highway of the wind. First big sticks, then tons of little sticks, then mouthfuls of cedar bark the size of a melon. Finally, great wads of what looks like mattress stuffing. Lastly, odd objects, a white ball, a flour tortilla. I see one raven fly to the turkey feeding platform and shoulder off a turkey hen. Thug.

Middle size nest prize goes to the Screech Owl, who thrills us with her occasional appearances. Her little claws are jet black as they cling to the bottom of the hole. Her green gold eyes are hypnotic to watch through the scope. She'll open one eye, unhurriedly, then the other and then the pupils slowly dilate, each one in turn.

continued on next page

On the small end, Bewick's Wrens launch Laurel and Hardy attempts at funneling an eight-inch stick into a five-inch nest box. Canyon Wrens pick at my nest materials basket, pulling yarn out in a tug of war. The alpaca is highly coveted. The wren grabs and grabs and grabs until he is Rip Van Winkle with his mouth of fluff.

The air thrums with birdsong, as if several orchestras were warming up at once. The Cedar Waxwings sound like piccolos as they pinball down through the branches to the bird bath. The waxwings are the Drum Majors of spring's marching bands, prompting the refrain: color, courtship, nesting, birdsong. Hear the reminder. Walk out on your land, listen to its secrets, feed the friendship.

Poem, essay by Lucy Griffith Copyright 2018

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



Guadalupe greens

From Greg Walton

Spring Birding Tours at Lost Maples State Natural Area



March 6th through April 28th

Every Tuesday and Saturday morning from 8:30 until 12 noon

Meet at the Overflow Parking Area and don't forget to bring your binoculars!

Tour is free with valid park permit.

Advanced Training

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.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19 6-7:30PM DIETERT CENTER, 451 GUADALUPE STREET, KERRVILLE

AT18-067 HILL COUNTRY ECOLOGY: WHY IT MATTERS

Jim Stanley will speak on the main problems landowners face--overgrazing, past and present; over-browsing; cedar encroachment; erosion; and exotic plants and animals--and what Master Naturalists can do about them. Tuition: \$20; call 830-792-4044 to reserve your seat.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19 8-9PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER (CNC), BOERNE

AT18-101 THIRST FOR NATURE: STARGAZING

Learn about the wonders of the world from the San Antonio League of Sidewalk Astronomers as you peer through their high-powered telescopes. Cost: \$10, Kids \$5, Under 6, Free. Tickets available on line: www.cibolo.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 9-10AM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE

AT18-086 WILDFLOWERS AND POLLINATORS: MAKING THE CONNECTION

Naturalist Craig Hensley from Guadalupe River State Park provides an introductory look at the inter-relationships between our Hill Country wildflowers and pollinators.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22 8:30-10:30AM ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA, FREDERICKSBURG

AT18-119 BIRDING

Join Park Interpreter Jessica DeBoer for a guided introduction to bird watching. Loaner binoculars are available for the first 12 visitors; bring your own binoculars, cameras, etc. Entrance fee is \$7; children 12 and under, free; or free with a Texas State Parks Pass.

MONDAY, APRIL 23 2-3PM WEBINAR

AT18-129 FIRE SMOKE AND AIR QUALITY

Dr. Greg Johnson, NRCS Air Quality Team Leader, Gilbert, AZ, is the presenter. Prepare your computer to view Adobe Connect on-demand webinars: This webinar may require additional setup on your computer or device. Visit our FAQ for more information. Webinar website: <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/>.

MONDAY, APRIL 23 7-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE

AT18-123 YMCA ROBERTS RANCH: A NEW TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST VOLUNTEER PROJECT

At our chapter monthly meeting, Jill Boyter will present an overview of the Roberts Ranch property and the process by which the baseline assessments, recommendations, and implementation of land management, educational programs, and recreational planning will be accomplished. Craig Childs will present specific volunteer opportunities for Master Naturalists to become involved in Roberts Ranch.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT18-130 MONARCH CONSERVATION: UNDERSTANDING THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Karen Anderson, USFWS Biologist, is the presenter. Webinar website: <https://monarchjointventure.org/news-events/news/announcing-the-2018-monarch-conservation-webinar-series>.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG

AT18-091 GROWING HEALTHY CREEKS: MANAGING AND PREVENTING ARUNDO INFESTATIONS

Monica McGarrity, TPWD's Austin Aquatic Invasive Species Team Leader, will be the speaker at the monthly meeting of the NPSOT Fredericksburg chapter.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26 2-3:30PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE

AT18-102 AUDUBON AND BIRDING

Tom and Patsy Iglert will speak on the basics of birding. Cost: \$7, members; \$7, nonmembers. To register online, go to <https://cibolo.org>.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26-FRIDAY, APRIL 27 7:30AM-5PM Y.O.RANCH HOTEL, KERRVILLE
AT18-088 FIFTH ANNUAL HILL COUNTRY LAND STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE

Day 1: discussion topics and hands-on opportunities regarding grazing, plant management tools (prescribed fire, herbicide, and mechanical control options), Texas landowner tax valuation options, grazing and hunting leases, fence laws, and predator management and ID. Day 2: "Your Choice" of tours to different parts of the Hill Country on board air conditioned charter buses. For more information, call Linda Francis, Soil & Crop Sciences, 979-845-2425 or l-francis@tamu.edu.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28 9AM-12PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE
AT18-103 BIRDING BY EAR WORKSHOP

The best birders can identify birds without even seeing them. Tom and Patsy Inglet will explain how to turn on your bird radar and amplify your birding skill. Cost: Members \$20, Non Members \$25.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28 10AM-2PM KIMBLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, JUNCTION
AT18-110 700 SPRINGS RANCH TOUR

Fredericka Wyatt will share the history of the area and award winning geologist Peter R. Rose will give facts about the geology of the springs. This event is free. Donations to the Kimble County Historical commission are accepted.

SATURDAY, MAY 5 8:30AM-4:30PM CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, FREDERICKSBURG
AT18-092 NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM, LEVEL 1

The Native Plant Society of Texas developed this four level certification program. Level 1: Introduction; Learn the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes; Discover the differences between sustainable and conventional development; Understand your Texas vegetation region and soil; Become familiar with 45 recommended native Texas plants and five plants to avoid. The course includes a classroom session and a two-hour outdoor plant knowledge walk. Cost, \$37. Contact Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512-589-1316, for more information and registration.

SATURDAY, MAY 12 8AM-4:15PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE
AT18-116 NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM, LEVEL 3

Level 3 focuses on the installation and maintenance of native landscapes. Contact Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512-589-1316, for more information and registration.

TUESDAY, MAY 15 8-10AM ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA, FREDERICKSBURG
AT18-137 FLOWERS, FEATHERS, AND STONE

Please specify your interest in either the Bird Walk or the Plant Walk when you register. This workshop will be limited to 20 participants (bird walks) and 30 (plant walks). Cost: Adults, \$7; children under 12, free. For more information and to register, contact Nancy Person, 210-913-2443 or nancykperson@gmail.com .

TUESDAY, MAY 15 1-2:30PM WEBINAR

AT18-139 IS MY WATER SAFE TO DRINK? COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT PRIVATE WELLS

Steve Wilson, Groundwater Hydrologist, will discuss how to get your well water tested, what you need to do to take care of your well, and if your well is susceptible to contamination. Note: Upon registration you will be presented with an opportunity to submit questions to be answered live on the webinar. We may not have time to answer every question or those submitted within 48 hours of the event. You may also ask questions during the webinar. To connect, go to - <https://tamu.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=bd608751d35f87dd829a9ed16&id=d359f1a1b5&e=211180caac> .

TUESDAY, MAY 22 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG
AT18-125 WHAT BIRDS HAVE TAUGHT ME ABOUT PLANTS

Susan Sander, Founder of the Riverside Nature Center, will speak on "What Birds Have Taught Me About Plants" at the monthly meeting of the NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter.

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

Master
Naturalist™



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?

Email Reggie Cox,
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