

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter
June 2018 Volume 16 Number 6



JUNE 25 MEETING: Monarch Habitat Restoration: How Citizen Scientists Play a Key Role in State and National Efforts

Cathy Downs, Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist, will speak on the Hill Country's role in the annual migration of the this iconic insect, which once numbered a billion and now is under review as an endangered species. Efforts by landowners to restore Monarch habitat on the local, county, and regional scale could lead to the recovery of this population. By using available resources and participating in Citizen Science programs we can sustain and nourish the Monarch for years to come. 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

T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . Lisa Flanagan

Well, I think summer is here! It's getting too hot to be outside for too long without getting overheated. For those of you who are outside, make sure to keep plenty of water at hand, wear a hat, and use sunscreen. Take breaks in the shade if possible. Be safe! We don't want to have any heat stroke!!

Just to put a bug in your ear.....

It is never too early to start planning our December holiday party. We are trying to come up with a fresh and new idea for entertainment. We like to do things that get members getting together in ways they usually don't.

This year we would like to have a Master Naturalist talent competition. I know we have members with talents that we would love to see. Can you sing? Play a guitar or other instrument? Are you comedic? Other talents? Serious or silly? Maybe more than one person can get together to do something. Please let me know if you would be willing to do this at our party. I know it would be a lot of fun! Email me at terlinguagirl@gmail.com, or call 830-928-2080. I want to hear from you. The sooner, the better, so we know if this will fly.

We are also thinking of doing a silent auction this year. It can be things you have made, or, if bought, something you know would appeal to a Master Naturalist. If you have an item that would be good for a raffle, let me know.

Being this early, we have time to get your feedback. Please contact me. I would like to present findings to the Board at our next meeting.

In parting, thank you for all you do as a Master Naturalist! Your services are invaluable to the groups/agencies you volunteer with; they help to provide programs they might otherwise not be able to do. Pat yourself on the back for a job well done.

Until next time.....

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Laura Grant, Evelyn Staffel

Special Recertification

Rick Edwards, Amanda Martin

Recertification

Jill Boyter, Kristie Denbow, Ginny DeWolf, Eileen Gotke, Sandra Haldeman,
Barbara Jansen, Chris Lienhard, Bob Lodowski, Claire Mitchell,
Bob Wiedenfeld, Morgan Williams, Hal Zesch

Milestones

Veronica Hawk, Tyra Kane - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours
Joe Braly - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours
Craig Childs, Scott Richardson, Janice Unger - Gold Dragonfly, 1000 hours
Dale Bransford, Lenore Langsdorf - Polished Silver Dragonfly, 2500 hours
Kathy Ward - Diamond Dragonfly, 5000 hours

Congratulations to members who received awards at the May meeting:

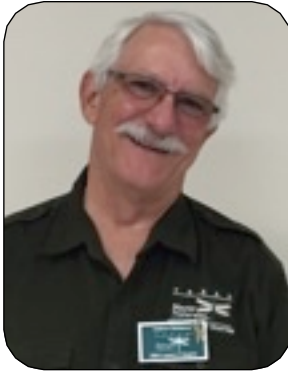


From left to right: Larry Altman, Joyce Studer, Mary Thomas, John Walker, Francoise Wilson, Susan Clark, Elsa Roberts, Andrew Robinson



From left to right: Leslie Hannah, Allison Johnson, John Adams, Cathy Binney, Rheda Boardman, Craig Childs, Diana Armbrust (hidden), Sandy Leyendecker, Susan McKinley, Janice Unger, Clarence Reed

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



Andrew Robinson, a member of the Class of 2013, was recognized for the Milestone achievement of 500 hours of volunteer service. Andrew, who resides at Rusty Bend Ranch outside of Comfort, has given many hours to Kendall County parks. He monitors and maintains 16 Bluebird nesting boxes at James Kiehl River Bend Park and 15 Bluebird nesting boxes at Joshua Springs Park and Reserve, and recently “rehabbed” (reconstructed) all sixteen boxes at James Kiehl. He assesses nesting habitation and bird species and enters all data into the E-Bird data base affiliated with Cornell University Bird Lab. In addition to his focus on Bluebird monitoring, Andrew participates in the Chapter’s Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP,) which provides free assistance to local land owners by assessing land management issues and helping with tree, forb, and wildlife identification on their properties.

Cecilia Fuentes, a member of the Class of 2016 who lives in Boerne, was recognized for the Milestone achievement of 500 hours of volunteer service. Cecilia assists with the Chapter’s Native Landscape Certification program and is a member of the Chapter’s CARE Committee, promoting recognition of member achievements. She participates in the Monarch Larval Monitoring program by assessing habitat and milkweed prevalence, and has participated in bird and butterfly surveys at many Kendall county locations including Kreuzberg Canyon Natural Area, Joshua Springs Park and Reserve, James Kiehl River Bend Park, and Kronkosky State Natural Area. Cecilia also assisted in Golden-Cheeked Warbler surveys in Kendall County, monitors and maintains bird-blinds at Kreuzberg Canyon Natural Area, and leads bird surveys there. She currently serves as Secretary for the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), assists with the NPSOT Youth Photo Contest workshop, and is a member of that Chapter’s donation committee.



Larry Altman, a member of the Class of 2014, was recognized for the Milestone achievement of 1000 hours of volunteer service. For four years, Larry, who lives in Kerrville, has been volunteering at the Riverside Nature Center. He has been a docent, a Riverside Guide, and a helper at the Center’s gift shop. He especially enjoys explaining the Riverscape and Guadalupe River Basin Model to visitors at the Nature Center. Larry also has volunteered at educational events for school children and worked at special events at the Nature Center including Plant Sales, Fundraising Events, and walk-and-run events.

Susan Clark, a member of the Class of 2016, was recognized for reaching the Milestone of 500 hours of volunteer service. Susan, who lives in Ingram, currently serves as Secretary for the Chapter’s Board of Directors. She also volunteers at Riverside Nature Center where she is a Riverside Guide. Susan is a Hill Country Archaeological Association member, participant in the dig, and is completing the HCAA volunteer certification class. She provides monthly monitoring of milkweed and larvae at Kerr Wildlife Management Area as a member of one of the Monarch Larva Watch teams. She also does monthly water testing at the Ingram Boat Ramp as a member of the Texas Stream Team, participates in the Cornell Ornithology Lab backyard bird count in November and April, and monitors her rain gauge in order to send rainfall data to CoCoRaHS.



Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley:

5/5/18 Riverside Nature Center: A Valuable Community Asset
We All Need to Support

5/12/18 More Common Hill Country Shrubs

5/19/18 Why Do Birds Do That?

5/26/18 Still More Hill Country Shrubs and Small Trees

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

For an entertaining fable, go to my website on the HC Ecology page
and click on 'Three Ways to Use the Land.'

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

NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

The chapter's next monthly meeting will be in September.
For further information, go to npsot.org/boerne.

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, July 24, David Vaughan will be our speaker.
His topic is "Get the Dirt on Soil."
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's next monthly meeting will be in September.
For further information, go to npsot.org/kerrville.



Native Plant Society of Texas chapter meetings are free and open to the public.



Monarch Workshop, Train the Trainer

Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin Friday, June 29 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

To bring back the monarchs and to protect all pollinators—we need to spread the word, to talk to our neighbors, friends, and family about the importance of taking action to conserve the monarch butterfly. Through this workshop, we will help you to learn how to acquire the necessary skills to become a knowledgeable speaker on monarch butterfly topics.

This workshop is a one day course on monarch biology, ecology, and conservation. You will learn the basics of monarch habitat creation and conservation and leave the course with the knowledge and confidence to engage diverse groups to take action on behalf of the monarch butterfly.

What are the Topics?

- Monarch anatomy, biology, life cycle and migration.
- Monarch threats: parasites, disease, land use, and pesticides, among others.
- Milkweed ecology, nectar plants, and monarch waystations.
- Outreach tools and materials, agencies and conservation groups involved in monarch conservation activities.
- Citizen Science, communication skills, interpretation, and role play.
- How to recruit for and structure a successful workshop/presentation.

Who should attend this workshop?

The primary objective of this workshop is to train participants how to educate others about the ecological role of monarchs and the conservation actions that can be taken to help the species.

This workshop is for those who are interested in outreach and in educating the public about monarch conservation. We request that every participant agree to share the education and knowledge acquired during this workshop with others by, offering presentations or workshops.

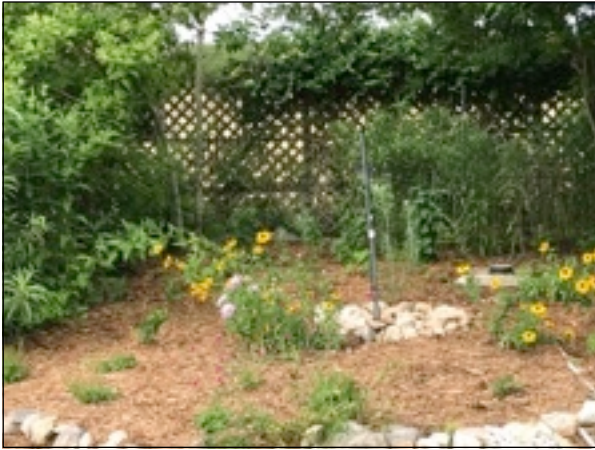
Monarch Conservation Training certification

After the participant gives at least a one hour presentation to the general public, she/he will receive a Monarch Conservation Training certification from NWF. The participant will have many other opportunities to engage in more presentations, workshops, and other monarch conservation activities if she/he wills to do so. Each participant will receive a USB drive loaded with a power point presentation, supporting handouts, and other resources.

The Trainers: Cathy Downs, Katie Boyer, Craig Hensley, Mike Quinn, Rebeca Quiñonez-Piñón

For more information and to register, go to <http://online.nwf.org/site/Calendar?id=108741&view=Detail>

Land Restoration Through "Pulling Weeds"



The Butterfly Garden just inside of Kerrville-Schreiner Park is in need of additional volunteers to maintain this 10,000+ square foot, 17 year-old garden. It is 97-99% Native Plants, high fenced, and needs additional effort to return it to a horticultural showplace and workable educational venue. THIS IS A SMALL SCALE RESTORATION PROJECT with the goal of returning the space to a usable educational area (one of our mission objectives) - - - MORE ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED!

Over the past year or so I have had an average of about four volunteers every Thursday morning. This small, dedicated cadre is helping bring the area back from a period of benign neglect to a natural and inviting environment for Kerrville-Schreiner Park visitors. Over 12,000 vehicle or camping permits were issued for KSP last year.

Bottom line: the garden has been overlooked by much of the HCMN chapter (my opinion), so our renewed focus now is to remove unwanted vegetation, i.e. PULL SOME WEEDS, clear areas, and install plants that we currently do not have or for which we need more specimens.

The Butterfly Garden is an excellent place in which one can gain experience in working with Native plants and learning to identify nectar and larval host plants, especially varieties of milkweed, as well as dreaded weeds. We were certified as a Monarch Way-station in 2006 and are active participants in Citizen Science activities such as Monarch Watch and Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas. Beyond plant identification, one can work with the Monarch Larval Monitoring Plant (MLMP) group in conducting a weekly milkweed census, checking for butterfly larva (Instars) and participating in butterfly identification and counts. In April we received an NPSOT Grant for the Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas program. Using this grant money, in the past month we have purchased, installed, and are watering over 100 native plants that support pollinators and butterflies (especially Monarchs).

My current efforts are to complete various volunteer training materials such as "The 10, 20, etc., Most **un**Wanted Plants" notebook; plant identification including garden location and characteristics lists; annual maintenance plans, i.e. pruning guides; etc., etc. Additionally, we are searching for additional grant sources in order to convert the underused central courtyard to a keyhole style raised garden that will serve as a demonstration bed for Hill Country native milkweed and nectar plants. In conjunction with this we want to expand our educational outreach to various garden clubs, church groups, scouting groups, nursing homes, and civic/business entities that wish to launch pollinator/butterfly gardens.

If you are interested, we normally work every Thursday morning, weather permitting, from about 0815/0830 until 1100 or so--again, temperature permitting. While the Butterfly Garden is listed as a Hill Country Master Naturalist project anyone can participate, so bring a friend! With enough new or additional volunteers, we can add a second workday to our efforts.

KSP is on TX 173 just south of Loop 534. To volunteer at the Butterfly Garden you do NOT have to check in or pay admission for the park. Take the first left past the Administration Building and the garden is just down the street on the left. Come out to visit, or email me at el_e@swbell.net . (Note that is: el underscore e). For VMS entry: KR-04A Kerrville-Schreiner Park Butterfly Garden: TMN Report Hours.

A thought for the day:

A logical corollary to You have to break eggs to make an omelette is:

You have to Pull Some Weeds to Restore a Garden . . .

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. . . now for the rest of the story:
The HCMN Kerrville-Schreiner Butterfly Garden Volunteers were recognized during the June meeting of Kerrville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Bedford Mitchell, Chairperson and Ms. Ashlea Boyle, Director of Parks and Recreation presented the certificate along with the thanks of the entire board for the extensive efforts of our volunteer team. The majority of volunteers attended.



From Reggie Cox, Membership Director

Mentors Needed for 2018 Class!

Mentors are an important part of the Class of 2018 process. Trainees are paired with a mentor who will help the trainee through the class. Mentors meet with their mentees prior to the start of the class to give the trainee the curriculum (textbook) and the Notebook with the schedules, speakers bios and so much more.

This is your opportunity to be a part of the class in a meaningful way. Mentors are very important part of the trainees' experience. The Mentees learn about volunteering opportunities and how to enter their volunteer hours in the Texas Parks and Wildlife System, and Mentors can help with questions and issues that may arise.

Please consider being a Mentor – we need experienced mentors and new mentors. 2017 Class Members are the most recent trainees who are now eligible to become Mentors and would make great Mentors because the experience of being in the Class is recent. As of June 9, only nine people have volunteered to be Mentors, so check your schedules and make a little time for a new trainee and friend.

There will be a meeting on August 1 at my home – 2651 Bandera Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028, at 10:00 am. It is tradition that we have a potluck lunch following the mentor meeting – so please bring your favorite potluck food. Last year there 26 people at the meeting.

Please contact me (hillcountrymembership@gmail.com) if you have any questions about mentoring, and Sign Up!!

The Deadline For Applying For the 2018 Class is June 30.

Go to <https://txmn.org/hillcountry/online-application/>

From Ruth McArthur

2018 Texas Native Plant Youth Photo Contest Winners



image by Mia Havelka, winner, Division III, ages 14-18

The Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas and Cibolo Nature Center and Farm announced winners of its fourth Texas Native Plant Photo Contest at its June meeting. Photos were displayed at the Cibolo Nature Center and Farm prior to the meeting and members voted on People's Choice awards. This year, 35 youth submitted 70 entries from 11 local schools and home schools, including members of the Patrick Heath Public Library's Teen Photography Club. Members of the Native Plant Society provided five workshops to familiarize students with the contest.

The purpose of the contest is to challenge youth photographers (and their parents) to learn more about native plants and pollinators of the Texas Hill Country--what they are and why they are important.

"Wow, what great pictures! My son really loved taking photos; neat that you all put this contest on! This is a great way to get kids outside to take in/appreciate the beauty of the Hill Country!" commented parent Molly Glauser. "The NPSOT Photo Contest gives the youth in our area the opportunity to stretch their wings in support of our mission here at the Nature Center," says Sara Brumby. "I am grateful to be a part of the contest as a judge as we are able to acknowledge and showcase the great work of these budding photographers."

Judges Cheryl Beck (CB Digital Imaging), Elizabeth Castle (Castle Photography) and Sara Brumby (Cibolo Nature Center and Farm) used a professional point scale to determine winners. "I love to see nature thru the kids' lenses and the stretching of their skills to show us while they learn about native plants in our area," commented Ms. Beck.

Ben Eldredge, CNC&F Director of Education, provided artwork for the posters; Sara Brumby, CNC&F Donor Development Database Manager, served as a judge. Texas Master Naturalists Anne Adams, Craig Childs, Brenda and Gary Fest, Cecilia and Randy Fuentes, Ruth McArthur, and Kathy Ward traveled to the schools, the library, and CNC&F to provide educational workshops to potential entrants. Cecilia Fuentes also hit the pavement to solicit prizes from local businesses. Craig Childs was the Master of Ceremonies for the celebration.

Many thanks to CNC&F for providing space for the winners' reception. Most thanks of all go to Rheda Boardman for creating this event, running it, and soliciting volunteers to make it happen and to bring together three organizations (NPSOT, TMN and CNC&F) to educate and encourage our youth and their families.

The Fight For Comal County

Stephanie Johnson

“WE’RE LITERALLY LOVING THE HILL COUNTRY TO DEATH.”

These words of warning did not fall on deaf ears at a packed public forum, “Local Control Options for Hill Country Counties,” on June 5 at GVTC Auditorium. [Smithson Valley]

Attendees learned the only real chance they have of gaining local control over infrastructure projects that encourage growth is to bug their legislators to change Texas law so that it gives counties more zoning authority over development.

WHO REGULATES LAND USE?

For them, there’s more at stake than watching scenic Hill Country vistas being erased by new construction.

Home values are at risk because Comal County commissioners have little say over commercial development projects that greatly diminish quality of life for the thousands who flock to the area — for quality of life.

“Over and over, counties have no power to prohibit incompatible land use,” said Annalisa Peace, executive director of Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, one of the forum’s sponsors. “You have industrial facilities next to neighborhoods. It’s heartbreaking.”

Added Jensie Madden with League of Women Voters-Comal Area: “People are seeing what we were only predicting a decade ago.”

She and Peace said saving Comal and surrounding counties means getting resolutions passed by commissioners’ courts throughout the Hill Country, commitments from local legislators to sponsor legislation, a bill drafted by Texas senators and representatives to be filed in January 2019 — and plenty of citizen action.

GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

After the meeting, Peace said she thinks Comal County residents heard this message.

“I was very pleased with the turnout last night and the participation from the audience,” she said. “It looks like those in attendance are ready for the state legislature to get to work on legislation that will protect the individual property rights, health and safety of those who live in unincorporated areas of this fast-growing region.”

A number of elected officials and representatives were there to hear the message as well.

In attendance were Comal County commissioners Donna Eccleston, Pct. 1 and Scott Haag, Pct. 2; Kendall County Commissioner Richard Elkins; Kerr County Commissioner Tom Moser; District 9 Edwards Aquifer Association Representative Ron Walton; Curt Campbell, vice president of Westward Development (which writes all of Vulcan’s permits) and member of board of directors for Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District; Bulverde City Councilwoman Yvonne Chapman, Precinct 102 Election Judge Kaci Sisk; Bryan Benway, representing Texas State Rep. Kyle Biedermann, R-Dist. 73; Kelly Follis, representing Sen. Donna Campbell, 25th district member of the Texas senate; Stephanie Phillips, Democrat opponent to Rep. Biedermann; Dorothy Carroll, Democratic opponent to Comal County Commissioner, Pct. 4 Jen Crownover; and Gloria Meehan, running as a Democrat for Comal County clerk.

CALL TO ACTION

Sabrina Houser Amaya, with Stop3009VulcanQuarry.com, emailed attendees the next day to remind them that political action involves “consistent and persistent contact with your elected officials.”

Her suggestions:

- Contact commissioners courts throughout the Hill Country and ask them to develop “local control options” resolutions to protect unincorporated areas of the county.
- Help get these resolutions submitted to state representatives and senators so they can draft bills.
- Contact state representatives and senators and ask them to commit to sponsor local control/option resolutions from their counties. “Be explicit as to why this is important to you as a constituent,” she said.

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THE PROBLEM

Why can't Comal County commissioners do more to regulate growth?

Under current Texas law Counties lack the authority to manage stormwater and control flooding at the local level;

Without any mechanism to require that new developments pay for themselves, all citizens pay for new infrastructure to accommodate growth;

- Counties cannot preserve the health, safety and quality of life for their citizens by prohibiting incompatible land uses;
- Counties are not given the tools to protect critical watersheds that replenish local karst aquifers like Edwards Aquifer, which is exceptionally vulnerable to pollution;
- and counties are not given adequate tools to set minimum standards for water and wastewater infrastructure and emergency services.

Between 2005 and 2009, four bills granting counties limited legislative authority for zoning failed.

THE SOLUTION

Madden and Peace said the Texas legislature, which reconvenes next year, should grant county commissioners

- Ability to set standards for water or wastewater systems;
- Ability to require minimum fire suppression systems;
- Ability to require improvements to streets and roads;
- Ability to require a minimum amount of open space or imposing a limit on the amount of impervious cover for aquifer recharge and stormwater management;
- Ability to require vegetative buffers or adopt other measures to minimize conflict between incompatible land uses;
- and the ability to assess impact fees that can pay for new infrastructure required to serve new developments.

Legislation also should require that commissioners courts place any proposed new powers on a ballot for county residents to decide. No new powers would accrue to a county without citizen approval.

"We believe that government at the county level is the most-effective and most-accessible means of providing protection to rural areas and our natural resources," Peace said.

reprinted with permission from MyCanyonLake.com, June 15, 2018

A graphic of the word "WELCOME" in large, colorful, 3D block letters. The letters are blue, purple, pink, and orange, with a white outline and a drop shadow effect.

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.

The View from Rusty Bend



Lady Guadalupe and her shadow sisters

Sibling Rivalry

*If all the world's a stage—
Pele's on the far side,
hawking rocks
clearing her throat
pitching wet fire at the heavens.
Earth eating woman, she boils,
she fumes.*

*Over here, amid these worn
hills
her brother Thor
throws a summer concert,
bellows out a storm that
crawls our horizon
west to east.*

*While Pele catapults orange bombs
earth to sky, Thor parades,
fertile, a hallowing god.
Sky to earth, he drapes electric lace
from the clouds,
whips and whirls to
tase each ridge and promontory.*

*Rising from the damp to applaud,
an audience grows,
little lightnings, fireflies
ascend, glow,
then spin
to watch their father's show.*

Rusty Bend in May is a celebration of babies. Courtship and nest building have such satisfying conclusions. Canyon Wrens again have their nest on our porch rafter, and we are entertained by the bug brigade as day after day the adults ferry bugs to the four nestlings. Occasionally, the bug is so big it must be subdued with a whack on the woodpile. A song of triumph is sung after each run.

At last it is fledging day and the largest nestling flutters to the porch. He uses it as a runway for practice flights, touch and go, touch and go, until he can make it to the bushes and on down to the river. The porch offers protection; an airport for wrens. All four make it safely into the air, licensed to fly. Our porch is quiet once more, but we miss the noise and bustle.

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New chickadees fly as a group with their parents and a steady sunflower seed exchange begins. The adult birds teach the tricks of opening a seed. All of their little tuxedos are bright and crisp and they sound like kindergartners giggling on a playground. We have named the juvenile Summer Tanager “*First Spring.*” He parades all motley with turmeric and crimson and bathes in the birdbath. You can imagine that big schnoz grabbing wasps and pounding off the stingers.

When Andy and I take our morning runs, there are pleasing songs and sightings of Indigo and Painted Buntings on both sides of our route. Bunting Boulevard. The air is thick with birdsong, nature’s fugue in many voices.

White-tail does wander the property, their bellies hanging like bags of wet laundry. When the fawns are born, they wobble across the yard, still wet and shaky, trying to keep up with Mom, stumbling and collapsing, rising again to follow. Portraits of vulnerability.

We have had some storms but little rain. As we sit on the porch with cups of coffee, we savor morning fogs with their precious moisture. We watch the wraiths ebb and flow, hypnotized. Then in the evenings, when it is so dry, the moon seems especially bright. Within the curve of the river, our Rusty Bend, a bowl of moonlight is firefly rimmed. We sit quietly and watch, listen for owl calls, knowing that in the morning, we will go out in the cool—to look for babies.

Lucy Griffith, PhD co-manages the Rusty Bend Ranch with her husband, Andy Robinson. She also writes poetry; her muse, a tractor named Mabel. She has just completed 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

Poem, images and essay by
Lucy Griffith Copyright 2018



Still wet

From Martha Miesch

Bug Bingo at the Kroc Nature Study Program



Master Naturalist volunteers Teresa Coleman, Chris Lienhard, Pam Lienhard, Martha Miesch, and John Sloan set up the classroom for playing Bug Bingo, a fun and educational game, prior to the students’ arrival. Master Naturalists provided funds for supplies for the program when we began this nature study many years ago. Leanne Beauxbeannes purchased the game, which is a helpful item for teaching and having fun. Many volunteers found toys like rubber balls, toy people, and plastic butterflies in their closets to bring for prizes. When the students entered the classroom they were very excited to get started so they could be the first to shout Bingo and win a prize from the prize box. They played in pairs; the game was a great way to be entertained and learn something about nature at the same time.

Advanced Training

THURSDAY, JUNE 21 7-8PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER & FARM AUDITORIUM, BOERNE

AT18-192 BACKYARD WILDLIFE

Educators from Southern Wildlife Rehab.Inc will introduce us to some of the wildlife you often find in your backyard. SWR will bring some live animals for you to meet as we learn more about how to live in harmony with wildlife. Register on line or at the door. Adults \$10, Members \$8, Children \$5

FRIDAY, JUNE 22 8:30AM-3:30PM HILL COUNTRY UNIVERSITY CENTER, FREDERICKSBURG

AT18-173 GILLESPIE COUNTY LANDOWNER WORKSHOP

This program is geared towards Gillespie County landowners who have recently purchased land or for those who wish to improve on caring for their land. Instructor: Robert Edmonson. The seminar will include topics such as: Planting for Wildlife, Identifying Tree Diseases, Riparian Areas and How to Manage Them, Tax Valuation Options, Wildfire Prevention, and Tree Selection, Planting, and Care. Cost: \$20; lunch is included. The class is limited to 100 attendees; register, including paying ahead, by calling the Gillespie County Extension Office at 830-997-3452 by June 20 to RSVP.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23 8AM-12PM MASON MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, MASON

AT18-188 INTRODUCTION TO MASON MOUNTAIN WMA & MS-02-A ORIENTATION

Learn about the WMA's history, purpose, and current activities, including the Vegetation Data Gathering volunteer opportunity (MS-02-A; July 9-12 and July 16-19) in support of the WMA's ongoing Small Scale Quail Management Project, and other TMN volunteer opportunities such as Bluebird Box Monitoring and Pollinator Habitat Improvement. The presenter is Dr. Jim Gallgher Don't rely on GPS; call Tony Plutino, 512-496-2020 for more detailed directions if needed.

Basic directions: https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/hunt/wma/find_a_wma/list/?id=14§ion=directions .

MONDAY, JUNE 25 7-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE

AT18-189 MONARCH HABITAT RESTORATION: HOW CITIZENS PLAY A KEY ROLE

Cathy Downs will speak at the monthly meeting of the Hill Country Chapter on the vital role of the Hill Country landscape in the annual migration of the Monarch. Doors open at 6:30.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT18-183 HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR TREES LATELY?

Learn how to inspect trees by identifying seven of the most common structural tree defects that often result in breaking apart or falling. The presenter is Dr. Robert Polomski. Go to <http://www.forestrywebinars.net> .

TUESDAY, JUNE 26 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT18-195 WEBINAR

Monarchs need milkweed! Collecting native milkweed seed is a cost-effective way to get local ecotype seeds for use in restoration projects. In this webinar, you'll get an overview of milkweed seed collection, including a primer on native plants, tips and tricks for harvesting, storing, and growing milkweed seed, and how you can participate in the Monarch Watch Milkweed Market to contribute to milkweed planting on a large scale. Go to <https://monarchjointventure.org/news-events/news/announcing-the-2018-monarch-conservation-webinar-series> .

TUESDAY, JUNE 26 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT18-194 TEXAS WATER ENTITIES

Learn more about who is responsible for protecting our state's precious resource and how you can help. The presenter is Cindy Loeffler, TPWD. Go to <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist> .

**TUESDAY, JUNE 26 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, FREDERICKSBURG
AT18-175 URBAN WILDSCAPES: GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE**

Kelly Conrad Simon will focus on how to transition from a traditional water-intensive urban landscape to an attractive native wildscape. With the eye of a landscape designer, she will emphasize the use of native plants to attract desirable native songbirds and pollinators. She will discuss the management of enemies of the garden, such as deer and other unwanted guests.

TUESDAY, JULY 10 12-1PM WEBINAR**AT18-190 TREES FOR BEES: POLINATOR HABITATS IN URBAN FORESTS**

The webinar will cover pollinator habitat needs and ways to promote pollinators in urban and suburban forests. Available resource materials and instructions for a hands-on learning activity will be included. Dr. Elizabeth Benton, Forest Health Outreach Specialist, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, is the presenter. Go to <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars/trees-for-bees-pollinator-habitats-in-urban-forests?sr=wp~mkt-whenPub> .

THURSDAY, JULY 19 7-8PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER & FARM, BOERNE**AT19-193 BIRDS OF PREY**

Educators from Last Chance Forever will introduce us to some of the magnificent raptors in their care with flying demonstrations. Register in advance or at the event. Members \$8, Non Members \$10, Youth 7-17 \$5.

MONDAY, JULY 23 7-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE**AT18 - TBA POND MANAGEMENT**

Dr. Michael Masser will be the presenter at the monthly meeting of the Hill Country Chapter.

TUESDAY, JULY 24 1-2PM WEBINAR**AT18-196 MONARCH CONSERVATION**

This webinar will discuss establishing and maintaining native meadows in the eastern US. There is a growing movement in the eastern US to convert lawns--even small backyard plots--to meadows for pollinator and wildlife habitat. There are many methods to accomplish the conversion; both methods and meadow maintenance needs will be discussed. The presenters are Larry Weaner, Landscape Associates Founder & Principal and Ann Aldrich, Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy, past Restoration Director.

TUESDAY, JULY 24 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, FREDERICKSBURG**AT18-191 GET THE DIRT ON SOIL**

What we call soil is home to a vibrant community of bacteria, fungi, nematodes, protozoa, and micro-arthropods. Plants, trees and soil microbes are interdependent. By knowing more about the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil, farmers, arborists, and gardeners are better equipped to manage crops, trees, and plants. David Vaughan is the presenter.

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:

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 Reggie Cox,
Membership Director
hillcountrymembership@gmail.com

