

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

August 2018 Volume 16 Number 8



photo by Vern Crawford

T E X A S

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AUGUST 20 MEETING: RECEPTION FOR THE CLASS OF 2018

Each of the new trainees will be introduced at this reception on Monday, August 20, 6:30 p.m., at the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center in Kerrville. Classes begin on Wednesday, August 22, at the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall. Our regular monthly chapter meetings will resume on September 24.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

A good August to everyone!

By this time, I hope the worst of the summer heat is over. Maybe our gardens and properties can recover a bit before Autumn comes.

First, I want to thank everyone who sent in a response to the idea of moving up our Chapter meeting times from 7:00 to 6:45. The overwhelming response was positive, and starting with the September meeting (remember, there will be no chapter meeting in August) we will start at 6:45. This will allow us to give awards and make announcements before 7:00, and give our speakers a good hour for presentations.

We also had a few responses to Katy Kappel's letter in the last newsletter regarding membership dues. This is an ongoing discussion; no decisions made at this point. You will find one member response in this issue. Both members have valid points to consider. I want to hear from the rest of you.

Many of you use our website on a regular basis. There is good information to be found there. Do you need to check on date and time of an AT? Check the calendar and click on the AT for that date. Also, you will get information about the AT, such as the AT number, title, place, and presenter, as well as content of the AT. Double check dates and times of meetings, etc. Good information.

You can also find dates of ongoing projects you may want to look into. These are not as easy to find, because many project leaders do not post regular work days or other events on our calendar. We think it would be good if they did. If you have a project in need of more volunteers, submit a request to get it on the calendar. Make it easier for people to find you! You can also write something for the next newsletter letting other members know what you need. Remember, just because all projects are listed on our website, it doesn't mean people find what they need. If you are project leader, make yourself accessible.

Do you need another member's phone number or email address? On the front page of our website, click on "Members"; then, on "Directory." It's a secure list, so use our password.

A number of you have expressed that you would like to donate something to our silent auction in December. You can give your items to any Board member, or to Katy Kappel, who is heading up this effort.

In closing, remember that we have a new training class to begin August 22. When they attend an AT or Chapter meeting, or if they want to try out a project for volunteering, please make them feel welcome. I think we will have a great class, and a great addition to our chapter.

This Month We Honor



Certification

Charles Harrington

Special Recertification

Laurence Doxsey, Catherine Gauldin

Recertifications

Pamela Bird, David Davies, Matt Farmer, Lisa Flanagan, Sarabeth Mayfield, Ann Schneider

Milestones

Alexis McRoberts - Gold Dragonfly, 1000 hours

Sarah Hilburn - Polished Silver Dragonfly, 2500 hours

These awards will be given at our September monthly meeting.



Congratulations to members who were certified or recertified at the July meeting:

From left to right: Francoise Wilson, Maura Windlinger, Larry Altman, Marylein Davies, Barbara Jansen, Alexis McRoberts, Marion Worthington, and Vivian Fink.

From Jim Stanley

The Case Against Annual Dues

With all due respect to Katy, I would like to argue against annual dues as being both undesirable and unnecessary. It is undesirable because it requires someone (Membership Director?) to keep more detailed records of who has paid and who hasn't and to remind those in arrears and it increases the work of the Treasurer. It is undesirable because it establishes different categories of membership (paid and unpaid? Or members and ex-members?)

And if there are two categories, then what are ex-members no longer allowed to do? Receive chapter e-mails? Open member area on web-site? Work on volunteer projects and attend AT events? Report hours? Get certified or recertified? Get pins? If non-dues-paying folks can do all of that, then what is the incentive to pay dues other than just support the chapter, which they could do anyway?

I also think the dues are unnecessary, at least at this time. For quite a few years now, each new Board has inherited a bank balance in the range of 15 to 20 thousand dollars, and then passed a similar amount on to the next Board. So we are not in danger of becoming broke any time soon. It is true that over the years the cost of running the new class has gradually increased, and occasionally the Board has raised the fee for the new class to more or less match the increased expenses.

It has been argued that the current fee of \$200 is expensive. I would argue it is a bargain. This spring there was a class held at RNC for women ranchers that, I think, involved about 64 hours of instruction. The fee was \$500. 16 years ago Priscilla and I attended several 1-day courses on various nature/land management topics at the Bamberger Ranch. We paid \$100, each, per class, back then.

We have, in fact, given scholarships or arranged for a time payment for those folks who found the class fee to be burdensome. I doubt that most prospective students would be turned away by an increase of 5 or 10% in the fee.

I would suggest to the Board that before instituting annual dues they share all of the relevant information about the costs of running the new class and the current chapter resources. Please let the Board of Directors know your thoughts. Send a message to the President, Lisa Flanagan (terlinguagirl@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Stanley



Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley:

- 7/7/18 Which is More Important, Plants or Animals? Answer, Both
7/14/18 How to Make the Most of Your Precious Water in Dry Times
7/21/18 Lichens and Other Things That Grow on Trees
7/28/18 Native Animals Are Tougher than We Are

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



NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting
On September 4, 6:30-8:30pm, Shelly Maher will discuss
basic facts and habitat needs of pollinators.
Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting
On Tuesday, August 28, Richard Coleman will discuss our new
Pollinator Garden Advice and Recognition Program.
Social at 6:30pm, program at 7pm
Fellowship Hall of Memorial Presbyterian Church
601 North Milam Street, Fredericksburg

NPSOT Kerrville Chapter Monthly Meeting
On Tuesday, September 11 at 1:30, Michael Eason will talk
about his new book, *Wildflowers of Texas*, and sign copies.
Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville.

NPSOT chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

From Ruth McArthur

YMCA Pilots Nature Program at Roberts Ranch

This is the best field trip I have ever been on! exclaimed the boy, age 10.

Little did he know, his experience had barely begun. The students had had a 10 minute bus ride down the improved caliche road, with Hill Country Master Naturalist and current vice president Craig Childs pointing out historical sites (such as Casa Blanca; a cave that housed soldiers fleeing the Battle of the Nueces). His group exited the bus at Freethinker's Rock, a landmark gathering place for ranchers and homesteaders since the 19th century, to discuss events of the day. The students were met by Texas Master Naturalists who guided them through the day. This particular group read a story and were walking the short way to the pavilion when the boy burst out with this.



Craig Childs shows students how to use a spotting scope.

And all his companions agreed. *Yes, this is the coolest thing we have ever done!* What they were experiencing is the exhilaration that comes from being immersed in nature, with all the sounds, silences, smells, and sights filling the senses--something lacking in so many children today regardless of background



Students with their bird feeders

Variations on this scene were repeated throughout the summer. The YMCA organized eight day trips for students in under-served schools in San Antonio, for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Comfort, and for area homeschoolers to come to its newly-revitalized Roberts Ranch. They reached 286 students over the summer.

Roberts Ranch is an 1100 acre property northwest of Comfort. Jill Boyter of the Y ordered Nature Trunks from Texas Wildlife Association, procured a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Co-op, and solicited assistance from the Alamo and Hill Country chapters of the Texas Master Naturalists to create this experience.

Group leaders, who were teachers, physicians, orthodontists, nurses, private businessmen, and a PhD geologist, piloted lessons from TWA's Birding, Wildlife, Butterfly, and Water Nature Trunks and realized what a wealth of information these have. Students learned how to use binoculars, how to keep a nature journal, signs of animals (scats and tracks), what a skull can teach us, nature photography, the water cycle, and much more.

Bob Binney, a Hill Country Chapter Master Naturalist, was happy to participate because "you never know just how a kid will be touched." Was a budding Audubon created this summer?



Jill Boyter helping students and Y staff find birds.

Participating Master Naturalists were Bob Binney, Craig Childs, Vivian Fink, Sarah Hilburn, Barb Jansen, Ruth McArthur, Barbara Pankratz, Karen Trott, and Kathy Ward (Hill Country Chapter), and Jerry Morrissey, Ron Tietz, Clark Williams, and Jenny Young of the Alamo Chapter.



NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Level 3: Installation & Maintenance of Native Landscapes

hosted by the
Native Plant Society of Texas, Fredericksburg Chapter

The day-long class will include two classroom sessions and a 1.5-hour outdoor walk.

- Recognize differences between native and non-native landscapes
- Become familiar with how to install the different types of native plants into a landscape, including: plant choice, purchase, placement, spacing; soil choice; bed and soil preparation; planting seeds and plants; mulching
- Understand maintenance requirements and techniques, and create maintenance schedules for the different types of native plants
- Become familiar with 45 native Texas plants recommended for your landscape and 5 plants to avoid.
- TX Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA): 6 CEUs
- TX Master Naturalist or Master Gardeners: 7 hrs advanced training

When: Saturday, September 29, 2018 – 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

**Where: Central Texas Electric Cooperative
386 Friendship Ln, Fredericksburg, TX 78624**

**Cost: \$37 NPSOT Member; \$52 Non-member
Snacks provided. Lunch not included - bring your own, please!**

Check out class descriptions, class schedules, or register online at
<http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp>

For more information, or to complete a mail-in registration, contact Meg Inglis at
nlcp@npsot.org or 512.589.1316

SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Native Plant Sale, Riverside Nature Center, Kerrville

Saturday, October 6, 2018, 9am - 2pm

Co-sponsored by

Texas Master Naturalists Hill Country Chapter
and Riverside Nature Center

Native wildflowers, shrubs, grasses, and trees will be available.

Plants are sourced from local nurseries.

A special pre-sale will be held 4:30-6pm on Friday, October 5
for RNC and HCMN members only.

Earn TMN volunteer hours by helping with this event.

If you would like to volunteer, email Sharon Hixson at
sharonhixson859@gmail.com

Watch for more information in the next issue of this newsletter.

Empowering Women- New Stewardship Traditions – October 1-2, Fredericksburg

A conference devoted to helping women manage natural resources in the Edwards Plateau will take place in Fredericksburg on Oct. 1-2 at the Inn on Barons Creek. The Women's Natural Resource Management Conference is funded by the Ruth and Eskel Bennett Endowment, said Dr. Larry Redmon, co-chair and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Bennett Trust specialist.



The women's conference is an extension of the Bennett Trust Land Stewardship Conference, which has been held in Kerrville, Dr. Redmon said. "More and more women are becoming landowners through inheritance and other means, and we want to help these women be a success in the management of their natural resources," he said. "By offering a ladies conference, we hope women will feel more comfortable with attending and participating. We also want to encourage mothers to bring their daughters; it is a generational thing." Cost of the two-day conference is \$75; that includes all meals, break refreshments, and tour transportation costs.

"Everyone involved in the planning process is excited about our new Edwards Plateau Land Stewardship conferences," Dr. Redmon said. "And thanks to the Bennetts' generosity, this will be a unique learning opportunity for all of us for years to come." Dr. Rick Machen said the conference will include "the best and wisest, accomplished stewards, visionaries and legacy-leavers as educators for this conference. Those with a passion for natural resource stewardship and a love for the Texas Hill Country will want to be there."

Among the speakers will be wildlife biologists, animal scientists, range scientists, and financial planners. The conference's preliminary agenda for the first day includes presentations and discussions of land stewardship on your property.

Day two includes a Hill Country Tour where participants will learn about plant identification, wildlife sign identification, trap and archery shooting, have lunch at Bridget's Basket in Hunt, and stop at more agricultural operations. Registration for the Bennett Trust Women's Conference, set for October 1-2, is now available at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.eduBennettTrust>. Information is also available at agrilife.org/bennetttrust/.

HILL COUNTRY LIVING + RAINWATER REVIVAL FESTIVAL

A Hill Country Alliance Event

OCT 20, SAT | 10AM-5PM | DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK



It's Free. It's Fun. It's for Families and Friends.

And it's all focused on living lightly, growing wisely, resource conservation, and good stewardship of our beloved Texas Hill Country.

More than 100 vendors, exhibitors, and experts — products and demonstrations on better ways to live and grow while respecting our natural resources and neighbors

- **Hill County Marketplace** — products from artists, artisans, makers, foodies, and fine crafters
- **Speakers' Stage** — an expert every 30-minutes on a broad range of relevant topics throughout the day
- **Music Stage** — singers, songwriters, toe tapping--all acoustic!
- **Raindrop Stop for Kids** — a fun, safe place for kids to learn and play; hands-on, interactive activities for a variety of ages
- **Food Trailer Court** — a rolling smorgasbord of tastes and treats
- **Hill Country Wine Tour** — a one-stop tasting extravaganza with some of the best wineries in Texas, and the world!
- **Tiny Home Showcase** — where less is more; see why tiny home developments are taking hold in Central Texas and the Hill Country
- **Hill Country Raffle** — a panoply of things to see and do in the Hill Country; you could win; all funds go to the Hill Country Alliance School Grant Program
- **Chickens** and the Wimberley Chicken Boy are back!

The FESTIVAL is held Rain or Shine!

Our event location is inside of the expansive Dripping Springs Ranch Park. All vendor and Marketplace booths are inside with concrete floors. The arena is also inside, but with a compact dirt floor – perfect for boot developments taking hold in Central Texas and the Hill Country.

The Hill Country Alliance is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to raise public awareness and build community support around the need to preserve the natural resources and heritage of the Central Texas Hill Country.

The View from Rusty Bend



Log cabin at Rusty Bend

Queen Yucca

*A tree in the treeless desert,
I am landmark to the lost.*

*General Store to the needy.
Bestowing fruit, water,*

*poultice, soap,
fiber, needles, combs, or rope.*

*I am apartments—
shelter for oriole, cactus wren,*

*flicker, falcon.
Home to the Swainson's hawk,*

*with his monk's hood, and
mighty migration.*

*My tap root, fathoms deep, yet
shallow roots grab each drop.*

*And yes, I've made a pool of shade—
Come, rest. Step in and bathe.*

Dear Daddy,

"Mighty dry, mighty dry." I hear your voice with its softened Virginia tones as I walk the pasture.

The particular smell of dry grass and dust, the utter crispness of it transports me back fifty years. Back to our first summer owning a ranch on the Guadalupe River. Knowing that as a teenager you had built a log cabin with your father on the Dan River, I remember asking you, "Could we build one?" The logs were at hand, ready to raid from an old corn crib with a rotten roof. Fat cypress logs, no rot in *them*. You said, "Yes."

And so began my first lessons in heat tolerance. We'd wake in the dark, scarf some cereal or scrambled eggs, be at the building site above the river before sunrise. Using only hand tools (where did you find that two-man saw and giant ice gripper of a log carrier?) we moved the logs into place, one by one. I learned the power of a pinch bar and the precision of a fulcrum. If it was cloudy, we'd work until noon. Sunny meant stop by 11. Back to the house for lunch and the kind of nap you crash into. Wake up, down to the river to get wet, then work a bit before dinner. The days flew by. I grew brown as a berry in the sun.

We were outside so much, we saw the pattern in things. How July is Siblings Month for birds. All the young ones eat and bathe together. We hear the neighbors' story of a mama turkey diving at a rat snake stalking her poults. Dive, dive, diving for many minutes until that snake was dead, dead, dead.

continued on next page

We notice how the Ash-throated Flycatcher sounds like a coach's whistle. (*Drop and give me 50, young lady.*) How the mockingbirds have lengthened their medleys as the summer passes and how Papa and Mama raven run off the kids, "Go find some other real estate to call home."

It took some time, those bifurcated work days, but the cabin eventually rose and stands fine today. A place to write a poem, for grandkids to sleep, superb for sunsets with a glass of wine. Andy proposed there one memorable Christmas Eve.

You built a cabin with your dad, I built one with mine—and it all turned out "mighty fine."



The author on demo day at the old corn crib (1966)

Poem, first image, and 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 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.

ADVANCED TRAINING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21 10:30AM-12PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER (RMC), KERRVILLE

AT18-218 2018 NOAA HURRICANE FORECAST AND WEATHER TRENDS

Paul Yura, who conducts storm damage surveys and is the liaison between the National Weather Service and citizens, will share NOAA's predictions for our future weather patterns.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT18-201 COASTAL ECOLOGY AND ISSUES

Holly Grand will discuss the importance of maintaining salinity for a balanced ecosystem and how seagrasses and tidal flats offer storm protection to coastal communities. Also, she will briefly cover biological and economic impacts from Hurricane Harvey. Webinar Website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist>.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG

AT18-217 POLLINATOR GARDEN ADVICE AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Richard Coleman will discuss a new program that is developed to encourage re-establishment of native plant pollinator gardens. The program is supported by the Texas Master Naturalist organization and by the Native Plant Society chapters in Fredericksburg, Kerrville, and Boerne. <https://txmn.org/hillcountry/pgarp/>.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28 1-2PM WEBINAR

AT18-197 GETTING MONARCHS INTO BUSINESS

Thelma Redick, Iris Caldwell, and Susan Kelsey will discuss the business case for support monarch conservation and use case studies on how businesses work with the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) to incorporate conservation. Webinar Website <https://monarchjointventure.org/news-events/news/announcing-the-2018-monarch-conservation-webinar-series>.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28 6:30-7:30PM WEBINAR

AT18-202 TEXAS WATERS WEBINAR: THE IMPACT OF OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

Katherine Hayhoe will discuss the implications of these changes for our natural ecosystems and the fish and wildlife that inhabit them. Webinar Website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram/texaswatersspecialist>.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29 1:15-3:15PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE

AT18-158 TREE IDENTIFICATION

Jim Stanley will teach the TMN 2018 Class how to identify native trees of the Hill Country. All Texas Master Naturalists are welcome to attend.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT18-225 FIVE TOOLS OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Sarah Kahlich will discuss five management tools that are necessary to help landowners develop and maintain a healthy ecosystem for wildlife in Texas. Webinar Website: <https://plateauwildlife.webex.com/>.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 1 9AM-12PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER (CNC), BOERNE

AT18-234 A WALK IN THE WOODS

Landowner Bill Kennon will discuss a new perspective on cedar management and lead a walking tour to the pinnacle of his property – the historic “Malakopf,” with its 360 degree vista of the Boerne region. The day will begin with a short presentation at the Kennon homestead, followed by an informative walk to the top of Malakopf Hill. Cost, \$15.00; limited to 20 people. To register, go to <https://ciboloorg.presencehost.net/experience/events/calendar.html/event/2018/09/01/-a-walk-in-the-woods-/212660>.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12 12-1PM WEBINAR

AT18-226 I NEED HELP! LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS IN TEXAS

Shane Kiefer, Director of Ecological Services, will present an overview of programs that provide funding or assistance for conservation and habitat management projects, with a focus on the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) and Pastures for Upland Birds (PUB). Webinar Website: <https://plateauwildlife.webex.com/>.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12 1-2PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE
AT18-159 VMS TRAINING

If you could use a bit more training or a refresher in the Volunteer Management System, bring your laptop, tablet, or other suitable device to UGRA for some extended instruction in VMS from Brenda Fest after the morning class meeting.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 14 9AM-12PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER, BOERNE
AT18-232 OUTDOOR CLASSROOM EDUCATOR TRAINING

This training is an opportunity to get an overview of the Outdoor Classroom program, meet fellow volunteers, and go over some of the Outdoor Classroom lesson plans. No previous teaching experience is required. The Outdoor Classroom serves approximately 2,500 students per season and wouldn't be possible without our volunteers. To register, go to education@cibolo.org.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 25 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG
AT18-230 VIRTUAL PLANT WALK AT ENCHANTED ROCK

Chris Anderson will presents the flora of Enchanted Rock through photos and information on many of the unique plants found around and on the striking granite domes at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. He will offer tips on how to find, appreciate and enjoy those plants on a real walk in the park.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26 12-1PM WEBINAR
AT18-227 BIRDING BASICS: AN INVITATION TO BIRDING 101

Mark Gray, Senior Wildlife Biologist, will cover choosing and using binoculars, bird identification basics, and the how, where, and when to choose the best birding locations, both on your land and in the area. Webinar Website: <https://plateauwildlife.webex.com/>.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26 1:15-3:15PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE
AT18-161 GRASSES

Jim Stanley is the instructor for this class on identifying grasses.

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.



Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend and contribute to Board of Directors meetings. This month, the board will meet at the Riverside Nature Center at 2:30 on Monday, August 20.

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We meet on the fourth Monday of most months (but not in August) at 6:45PM 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.

Board of Directors 2018

- Lisa Flanagan -- President
- Craig Childs -- Vice President
- Susan Clark -- Secretary
- Cathy Binney -- Treasurer
- Paula Harley -- Advanced Training Director
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- Reggie Cox -- Membership Director
- Claire Mitchell -- Volunteer Service Projects Director
- Leslie Hannah-- 2018 Class Director
- Katy Kappel-- 2017 Class Representative
- Brenda Fest-- Immediate Past President
- Vern Crawford — State Representative



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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Questions about our chapter?
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