

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

September 2018 Volume 16 Number 9



T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™



SEPTEMBER 24 MEETING: The Diversity of Wild Cats in Texas.

Our speaker will be Monica Morrison, who is the founder of Texas Native Cats, an organization that provides educational presentations, outreach, and advocates on behalf of the five species of exotic cats that call or have called Texas home. She is a member of the North Texas Master Naturalists and has about 20 years of experience in working with wild cats, both in the wild and in captivity. We meet in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's lecture hall, 125 North Lehman Drive in Kerrville. Socializing begins at 6:15; the program starts at 6:45.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . Lisa Flanagan

Hello, fellow Master Naturalists!

By the time you read this, there may be a hint of Fall on the way. I certainly look forward to it; I'm growing tired of the hot and somewhat dry summer.

We have a new class in session. We have diversity in backgrounds and ages that I have not seen before in my five years in the group. I look forward to seeing the projects they choose to volunteer with. I hope that many of them will be at the September meeting so that you can have a chance to welcome them. Their bios and pictures are included in this issue.

Just a brief reminder...our new starting time for Chapter meetings will go into effect with the September meeting. The doors will still be open at 6:00 or shortly after, and the meeting will start at 6:45.

If you have not yet done so, please check out the Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program (you may hear it referred to as PGARP). Click on the link at the top of our website. We have some very dedicated members promoting putting in small plot pollinator gardens throughout the Hill Country. This is worth looking into, and letting others outside of Master Naturalists know that this service is available.

I look forward to seeing you at the Chapter Meeting on September 24.

Until then.....

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Charles Harrington

Recertification

Pamela Bird, Eva Broad, Anne Cassidy, Koy Coffey, David Davies, Donna Dutton, Matt Farmer, Lisa Flanagan, Tyra Kane, Chris Keating, Myrna Langford, Sarabeth Mayfield, Glenn Randow, Ann Schneider, Floyd Trefny, Karla Trefny, Greg Watson

Special Recertification

Laurence Doxsey, Catherine Gaudin, Rachel Thompson

Milestones

Pat Hopf, Katy Kappel, Hal Zesch - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours

Alexis McRoberts - Gold Dragonfly, 1000 hours

Sarah Hilburn, Martha Miesch - Polished Silver Dragonfly, 2500 hours

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

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 8/4/18 | Can We Save Our Hill Country Water for Future Generations? |
| 8/11/18 | We Are Lucky to Live in the Hill Country |
| 8/18/18 | Native Plants and the Drought |
| 8/25/18 | Predators and Prey: A Complicated, Often Misunderstood Relationship |

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

From Kristie Denbow

Volunteer Management System

VMS administration has updated federal reporting codes. "TR" extensions for "Training and Educating Others" has been changed to "Direct Outreach."

TR extensions on our project codes are now "DO."
Example: GL-02-A-TR is now GL-02-A-DO .

Texas Master Naturalist-Hill Country Chapter
& Riverside Nature Center Invite you to...

Native Plant Sale & Festival



Saturday • October 6th

9am
to
2pm



Free
Family
Fun

Native Plant Sale

Sale begins at 9:00 am. Come early for the best selection! Our sale is special because of our people; experts will be available to help you select plants that will thrive in your particular landscape conditions. There will be a variety of shrubs, perennials, native trees and more that have been carefully selected from nurseries across Central Texas.

All net proceeds benefit the RNC and TMN-HCC education efforts.
SAVE! One day Tax-Free shopping for Plants and Gifts

Fun & Informative Talks

"Stop the Spread, Spread the word, Just Do It!"



11:00 am

Learn what makes a plant **INVASIVE** and how you can help arrest the spread of these notorious invaders.

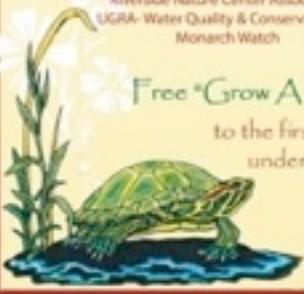
Informative Exhibits & Displays

Texas Master Naturalist- Hill Country Chapter Ask The Plant Expert
Native Plant Society of Texas- Kerrville Chapter
Hill Country Master Gardeners Glory Community Garden
Riverside Nature Center Association
UGRA- Water Quality & Conservation
Monarch Watch



Free "Grow A Tree" Kit

to the first 50 children
under 12 years old.



For Detailed Information: 830-257-4837
www.riversidenaturecenter.org
150 Francisco Lemos Street • Kerrville, Texas 78028

Green Fire

ALDO LEOPOLD AND A
LAND ETHIC FOR OUR TIME



DATE & TIME:
Tuesday, September 18th @ 1:00

LOCATION:
Rio10 Cinema, 1401 Bandera Hwy

DETAILS:
RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER will host a screening of the Emmy Award winning film Green Fire, the first full-length, high definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold. The film explores Aldo Leopold's life in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways his land ethic idea continues to be applied all over the world today. \$5 entrance fee

PRODUCED BY:



www.GreenFireMovie.com

From Claire Mitchell

Eduscape

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) has planted an Eduscape with the goal of teaching Hill Country residents the benefits of native plants in our drought prone area. Benefits include lower water usage, food for pollinators (including monarchs), slowing down run off from the garden, and keeping run off from reaching the river.

The Hill Country Master Naturalist Chapter will be responsible for maintenance of the native plants in the new Eduscape. The garden has xeriscape sections, hardscape, and walkway alternatives. There is already a drip and sprinkler head watering system in place for most of the garden. UGRA is installing extensive educational signage for plant ID, rain gardens, springs, and more to assist with the education of visitors.

HCMN will be partnering with the UGRA. In return for our expertise and maintenance of the garden, UGRA will give us free use of the lecture hall for Chapter Meetings and the Annual TCMN Class. For further information, contact Reggie Cox at reggiemcox@gmail.com.



From Greg Walton

Lost Maples State Natural Area Needs Volunteers!

The Friends of Lost Maples is looking for volunteers for the ongoing Second Saturday volunteer work days. This is a chance to see and assist at one of Texas' most beautiful and best-loved parks, located on the Sabinal River in Vanderpool. On the second Saturday of each month (September 14 and October 13) we will be doing a variety of volunteer activities in the park, such as fertilizing and watering trees, building deer exclosures, trail maintenance, and cleanup, recycling, etc.

We will meet at 8 am at the UGRA parking lot in Kerrville and carpool to the park. Bring sturdy shoes, a cap, a lunch if you like, and plenty of water. If you are interested, drop a line to Colette Nicholl at Colette.nichol@gmail.com or just join us at the park.

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

Snake ID and Safety (AT18-246)
Presented by Kory Perlachek, TPWD Biologist

Not all snakes are “bad” snakes. Come and learn how to identify and safely coexist with snakes found in the Texas hill country.

Parents and children are invited to attend.
After the presentation, we will be “Makin Snakes,” a fun hands-on activity.

September 22, 2018, 10:00 to 12:00
Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, in the Tatsch House, Fredericksburg

To register, please contact Sharon Rodriguez at 830-997-4399 .

This workshop will be limited to 50 participants.
Suggested donation of \$10.00 for adults; children are free.



NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, October 2, at 7pm
Benito Trevino will speak on “The Traditional Uses
of Native Plants.”
Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, September 25, Chris Anderson
will present “A Virtual Walk at Enchanted Rock.”
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 tell us
about his new book, *Wildflowers of Texas*. He will have books
for sale and can autograph them for you.
Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville.

These chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

from Donna Dutton

Plant Natives NOW for Next Summer's Blooms!

All gardeners know that it is easy to have a pretty garden in the spring. But having flowers blooming in July and August in Texas is quite another thing! Still, it is possible if you plan and plant ahead. The pictures in this article were taken in July and August in areas that received little or even no additional water. Starting in the fall is ideal, as the plants need time to get established so that they can survive our heat and drought conditions. If you wait until spring, it is very possible that they will not be able to do that, at least not without significant and attentive watering.

And the planning and planting is not just about having some pretty flowers to admire during the dog days of summer. Our pollinator friends desperately need the nectar that these plants supply during the times when blooms are scarce out in the woods and fields. And in town, where so much impervious concrete and St. Augustine have crowded out the native flowering plants, it is even more important. During the drought of 2011, I had hundreds of migrating Monarchs nectaring on the Cowpen Daisies in my front flower bed because the blooms out in the fields were very scarce.

Start with a garden plan. I like to either use grid paper and colored pencils or a landscaping software package for planning. Measure the area and sketch out any existing plants and hardscape features. Does your garden area get full sun, part sun, or mostly shade during the summer months? This will make a huge difference in the plants you choose. Do any of the existing plants bloom in the summer? If so, be sure to note their bloom color and growth habit. What colors and shapes will combine well with them?

Looking for a contrasting pair? The bright red of Tropical Sage seems to make the clear blue of Widow's Tears jump out at you. The sage grows to 18 to 24 inches, while the Widow's Tears makes a beautiful low border in front.

The fluffy soft blue of Gregg's Mistflower is beautiful and has the added plus of being irresistible to the male Queen butterflies. The male Queen takes in a pheromone poisonous to many species from the mistflower nectar, converts part of it into an attractant to draw the female to him, then passes the rest on to the female, who deposits the poisonous pheromone into the eggs for protection from predators! (<https://npsot.org/wp/story/2017/9972/>)



These are a few examples of the many durable, beautiful native flowers that can take the heat and keep on blooming! If you are not very familiar with the colors, names and growth habits of many of our native plants, browse through some of these excellent resources:

- Butterfly Gardening for the South (Ajilsvgi)
 - Native American Seeds catalog
 - Native Texas Plants, Landscaping Region by Region (Wasowski & W Wasowski)
 - Texas Wildflowers: A Field Guide (organized by color; Loughmiller & Marcus)
 - Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country (Enquist)
- The Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition website, linked from our own Hill Country Master Naturalist web site

Then make your shopping list, and head out to all those great fall native plant sales!

The Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter Class of 2018



Amy Zesch is originally from San Antonio and is married to Hal Zesch, HCMN Class of 2016. They began working to restore native grasses and forbs on their ranch in Mason after a fire devastated the property in 2015. The Master Naturalist training Hal received has been invaluable in their efforts! After earning an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University, Amy completed an MBA and an MA in Communications from UT Austin. She enjoyed a short career producing and directing instructional media and a few years of employment with her church, but for the most part, her energy has been devoted to family and volunteer work. She and Hal have four adult children and two grandchildren. Amy's interests include photography, cycling, knitting, and birding.

Andrew Barnebey grew up in a diplomatic family; he lived in Ecuador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Peru, and Virginia as a child. Now he lives in Rocksprings with his young adult daughter, Emma, a few steps from Rocksprings' great library. Andrew is a retired English and Spanish teacher whose days are now busy with competitive bridge games, county government, and the Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area. One particularly great experience of his youth was a high school field trip to the Amazon that cemented his respect for the natural world. He worked towards his B.A. for eight years (with numerous pauses), took classes at seven colleges, and finished his degree at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. His involvement in politics includes serving as a county commissioner in Edwards County.



Ani Artero was born in England and raised all around the globe, thanks to her parent's employment in the United States Air Force. Ani graduated from Chaminade University of Honolulu where she majored in both English and Psychology. After her graduation in 2014, she volunteered as a high school teacher in Micronesia, followed by another service year as an environmental educator in Dayton, Ohio, working to reconnect the city to its five rivers. She only recently moved to the Hill Country and is currently Program Director at Tecaboca in Mountain Home. For fun, Ani loves going thrift shopping, watching movies, and being in or on the water!

Barbara Pankratz was born and raised in Comfort. She attended first through twelfth grades in Comfort and graduated from Texas A&M University with a major in Anthropology/Archaeology and in need of a paying job. She became an educator back in Comfort. Now, retired from the education field, Barbara is pursuing her passion: birding. She and her husband, James, live in Comfort with their German Short-haired Pointer, Sonny. Their son, Russell, has flown the coop and lives in Poteet. She loves the outdoors and fully endorses the TPWD slogan, "Life is Better Outdoors." Barbara enjoys observing butterflies, dragonflies, and wildflowers, is interested in land stewardship, and was greatly impressed by Selah, Bamberger Ranch. She "hangs out" with a group of Kendall County Master Naturalists and is looking forward to working on the Roberts Ranch project and bird surveys.



Carla Stang was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After graduating from high school, she obtained her Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing and worked as a registered nurse for about 10 years before she was commissioned in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. Carla recently retired from the Navy after 27 years of active duty service. She has two graduate degrees from George Washington University and works part-time as a contractor in the area of Healthcare Quality Improvement. Carla and her husband are new Texans who now reside in Hunt with their dog. She loves to be active in a variety of outdoor activities and is excited to learn and be involved with volunteer efforts to preserve Texas' wildlife and their habitats.

continued on next page



Cindy Cox is a native Texan and graduate of both Texas Tech University and the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. She is a former assistant professor of Homeland Security for the University of Maryland. Cindy loves exploring the Hill Country as well as New Mexico, where she and her husband own a cabin in the Sacramento Mountains of Lincoln National Forest. She finds a lot of creative inspiration in nature; many of the items created in her weaving studio, the Wild Weft, reflect ideas or colors from her photographs of birds and sunsets. Cindy also loves spending time outdoors with her grandchildren and volunteering at the Cibolo Nature Center and Herff Farm in Boerne. The natural environment offers endless fun opportunities for children to learn!

Clark Williams was born in Lake Forest, Illinois and grew up in Corpus Christi where he attended school. He graduated from Del Mar Jr. College and then from the UT Dental Branch in 1972, and practiced dentistry in Corpus Christi from 1972-2008 before retiring. Clark has been married to Susan for 46 years; they have two daughters, Brooke and Erin, and two granddaughters, Ruth and Rebecca. His hobbies include ranching on his ranch in Goliad County, hunting, and fishing. He transferred from the Gulf Coast chapter, where he was a member from 2009-2018 with over 1850 volunteer hours. Clark is a certified Hunter Master with the Texas Youth Hunting Program and did 800+ hours of turtle patrols on Padre Island National Seashore. He works part-time as a driver at La Hacienda and is looking forward to volunteering with us.



Connie Fluegel earned her Master's Degree in Adult Education and Curriculum Design and then worked in Houston for Brown & Root, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and BMC Software. She designed and taught courses including computer applications, customer service, and leadership development. Connie, her husband John, and their two children enjoyed exploring the Texas countryside and learning about the plants and wildlife. Connie and John moved to Kerrville in 2005 when he retired. She worked for ten years at Peterson Regional Medical Center as their Education Coordinator and retired in 2015. Her hobbies include horseback riding, drawing and watercolor painting, genealogy, plants, crocheting, and playing with her dog, Bailey. She is a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Kerrville. Connie is especially interested in the preservation of Monarch butterflies.

Eldon Sheffer was born in Ohio. Both of his grandfathers were farmers and his childhood home always had a garden. While earning his Chemical Engineering degree, he met his wife Barbara and they were married a few days after they graduated. With their sons they continued a family tradition of travel and enjoying nature. Eldon's oil industry and consulting careers caused them to live in five different states and travel to many more. He then taught at Schreiner University for ten years. Their home in Kerrville is on a largely natural property overlooking a valley. Barbara and Eldon are frequent travelers, including many trips with their Airstream RV, and they hike everywhere they go. Eldon serves as a Presbyterian Commissioned Pastor and preaches once or twice each month.



Janet Petrosky was born in Salt Lake City and moved to Western Montana when she was in High School. She grew up in the outdoors, camping, fishing, and gardening. Janet met her husband, John, in Seattle. They spent 30+ years moving around the country with Shell Chemical, raised three children, have been blessed with four grandchildren, and moved to Kerrville in 2014. Janet enjoys golfing at Comanche Trace where she encounters native plants and wildlife while chasing the ball around the course. She volunteers at Riverside Nature Center with Julie Clay's group, maintaining the meadow and butterfly garden, and has developed an interest in learning more about native plants in the Hill Country. She is looking forward to being a part of the 2018 Master Naturalist Class.

continued on next page



Jeanette Masek moved from the upper Midwest to Kerrville. She holds a BA in Biology with a minor in chemistry. Jeanette took classes at the Nebraska State Biological Station in Ogallala, including a five week summer session living in the camp in western Nebraska, where she studied several different habitats within 30 miles. She is a Hill Country Master Gardener and holds 18 Hill Country acres in stewardship. Jeanette is learning a very different ecosystem, planning a rain water recovery system, and wants to help teach others about the Hill Country plants and how to nurture the good ones and get rid of the bad ones. She considers it quality time when she is pulling thistles from her pasture and spending time with her granddaughter.

Jeralyn Hathorn was born in San Antonio and lived most of her life in McAllen. Her family moved to Vanderpool in 1997 and began their dream of living on a ranch. She has three children and soon to be four grandchildren. After moving to Vanderpool their adventure as bed and breakfast owners began. They have met many very fine people along the way and are grateful for the opportunity to live and work in the Lost Maples region. Work is her hobby and she is looking forward to gaining knowledge from the Master Naturalist program with the intention of using that knowledge to promote ecotourism in the area and make others aware of how fascinating our world is.



Joyce Towers was born and raised in Lufkin. She graduated from high school in 1969 and then earned a B.A. in Contemporary American Studies from Rice University. Her 35-year professional career in Corporate and Marketing Communications included companies in book publishing, direct mail, high tech, and construction. She and Michael have been married for 41 years and have three grown children and three grandkids, who all love Hill Country life. Shortly after she “retired,” a friend introduced her to the joys of digging for and collecting prehistoric artifacts. She had to stop actively digging due to health issues, but still enjoys hiking and birding. Joyce is embarrassed to admit a lack of knowledge of plants, grasses, trees, and even birds, and hopes to remedy that with the TMN program.

Katie McQueen grew up in California in a family that loved backpacking, camping, and being outdoors. She and her husband moved to Houston so she could attend medical school. After a decade in Houston they escaped to the Hill Country. Katie is a physician at La Hacienda Treatment Center and loves her work. She is very excited to focus on environmental recovery as a Master Naturalist, and would love to restore Bobwhite quail to their ranch in Mountain Home through proper land management. She and her husband have two grown daughters, two rescue dogs, and a dozen chickens. Katie loves to garden and tomatoes are her specialty. Celtic music and dance are an important part of her family life, and scuba diving is their favorite family activity.



Kim Berthold was born in Dayton, Ohio and spent most of her life in the southwestern Ohio area. She earned a degree in greenhouse management from Ohio State University, served in the United States Navy, and worked in an aviation weather office in Jacksonville, Florida. It was there that she met her husband of 34 years. She was a stay-at-home mom who raised two amazing children and spent much time rescuing dogs from the local pound. The family moved to Ingram in 2017; they have eight Hill Country acres, and she frequently is confronted by plants, animals, and birds she is not familiar with and is excited to learn about.

continued on next page



Kristine Burkhart's family moved to South Texas in the early 70's and built a campground/trailer park. She learned to play and work in the heavy clay and graduated from TAMU with a degree in Renewable Natural Resources. Kristine returned to the valley, married, had two kids, and spent the next decade at a variety of jobs from scheduling dental appointments to teaching science to little children. She is a certified arborist and earned her teaching certification five years ago. Currently she is taking care of her mom and spoiling the two best grandkids known. While Kristine still feels new to the area, she has been in Kerrville almost two years. She would really love to be a part of the Robert's Ranch project.

Laura Lewis was born in Austin, raised in Lubbock, and had a 27 year career in Respiratory Therapy and Neurodiagnostics. She then switched to an interest in capturing the visual landscapes and vistas of the area on canvas and earned distinction as a High Plains regionalist artist. Laura and her husband started restoring their Mason County acreage around 25 years ago and in 2011 moved to this property. Laura is a teacher, gifted in visual communication, enjoys kayaking, and is interested in birds, butterflies, pollinators, and trail maintenance.



Lee Ann Booker grew up on the Texas Coast as a nature lover. She was born in Corpus Christi, where she learned to fish, swim, and beachcomb. Lee Ann attended Abilene Christian University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Her first job after college was at UT Health Science MD Anderson Cancer Center in the tissue culture labs, where she worked before starting a family. Lee Ann has three children, two grandchildren, a wonderful husband, and a golden retriever named Betty. She retired from a second career of teaching Special Ed., ESL, and Gifted and Talented students. Her hobbies are pottery, watercolor, reading, and kayaking. She is really looking forward to working in her community in Boerne and Kendall County.

Leslie Washburne is a native Texan with a broad world view. Born and raised in Dallas, she got down to the Hill Country as fast as she could. With degrees in both psychology and the culinary arts, Leslie naturally gravitated towards the hospitality industry. Through the years she bought and renovated Hoffman Haus, started a cooking school, and helped her children open Otto's German Bistro, Tubby's Ice House, and La Bergerie, all in Fredericksburg. She is also the proud grandmother of five darling grandchildren. Reading, gardening, watercolor, and writing are all interests of hers, along with travel. Leslie is thrilled to be part of the Class of 2018!



Marge Cid has been rooted in South Texas for all of her adult life. After personal experiences purchasing and selling homes and ranch land, she pursued a full time career in real estate sales. She found the freedom to raise a family by running her business from home. Marge lived and raised nature-loving children in Boerne. She now has two grandsons, the apples of her eye. She loves to work and play with them in nature--gardening, trail hiking, swimming, and kayaking local rivers and lakes. Marge continues to sell homes and land in San Antonio and the Hill Country and is inspired to seek out opportunities to encourage community parents and children to not only love nature, but to learn, plant, and nurture more.

continued on next page



Mark Richardson was born in Houston and raised there and in east Texas, with a lot of time dedicated to exploring and enjoying the Galveston coastal area along the way. After his education in geology and history at the University of Texas and the University of Houston, he worked in the energy industry in Houston for nearly 40 years, primarily with databases and geographic information systems, and is now retired and living in Kerr County. Mark has a keen interest in water resources and management, the development of renewable energy, and sustainable living practices. He is a novice gardener and enjoys being outdoors and becoming acquainted with the beauty of this part of Texas.

Marsha Baumann was born and raised in Houston. She received her Bachelor's degree from Stephen F. Austin University, her Master in Social Work degree from the University of Houston, and worked in mental health, schools, and private practice with children and families until she retired. Following retirement, Marsha started a home staging business; design is one of her passions. Eight years ago she began visiting friends in the Hill Country and fell in love with the area. She moved to Mountain Home last December in the midst of a snow storm. Marsha and her partner Everett have been busy getting settled on their 10 acres. She has started raising bees and is looking forward to learning more about being a good steward of her land.



Mike Towers grew up in Midland. He graduated from UT Austin after a brief hiatus working in the space program at NASA in Houston and then worked for many years in R&D in a Fortune 500 computer company in San Antonio. He graduated from the police academy in San Antonio at the age of fifty, became a peace officer, and is now starting his second term as Justice of the Peace in Bandera County. He was humbled to win his re-election with 73% of the vote with two opponents. He and Joyce have three grown children and three grandchildren (and counting). Mike enjoys riding on the tractor with his youngest grandson and maintaining his small acreage. He is a ham radio operator and a fully licensed gunsmith.

Mildred Dworsky was born in Hallettsville was raised on a farm near Sweet Home. She still visits the farm on a regular basis. After graduating from Yoakum High School, she left for Houston to begin a career as a secretary and worked in the business world in Houston for 50 years. Mildred recently ended her career as a legal assistant and moved to Kerrville to be near her grandchildren. She has a daughter and son-in law living in Kerrville and a son and daughter-in-law living in Huntsville, as well as three wonderful grandchildren. Mildred enjoys spending time photographing nature's beauty, especially flowers and butterflies. She is looking forward to the class and meeting new friends.



Molly Burns was born and raised in Houston and attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. She graduated with a BS in English, and then worked for a year in Haiti at an orphanage before moving back to Houston where she married her husband of 31 years, Gillette. After living in Del Rio for 12 years, they moved back to Houston where she taught Pre-Kindergarten at the Kinkaid School. They have three grown children, a two year old grandson, and another grandchild on the way. Molly and Gillette spend as much time as possible at their home in Leakey on the Frio River, where she has developed a great love for and appreciation of the Hill Country and all that lives and grows within it.

continued on next page



Molly Houck was born in San Antonio and has lived in Texas ever since. She earned a BA in Education from the University of Houston. She worked as office manager of her husband, Lou's, business, was a docent at Freidrich Wilderness Park in San Antonio for several years, and served on the Friends board. She and Lou take each grandchild to Yellowstone in their 11th summer. Molly is a volunteer in her church, mostly in music, and enjoys being with her children and grandchildren. She and Lou have volunteered with TPWD as campground/maintenance hosts since 2015. She loves birding and also likes to camp, hike, and enjoy nature in general with her husband. Molly has wanted to become a Master Naturalist since the program began!

Nancy Huffman is a transfer from the Coastal Prairie chapter, class of 2013. She graduated from UT Austin where she studied art and architecture. After her initial career specializing in hospital architecture, she obtained alternative certification to teach art at the high school level and taught in Katy ISD until retirement this past school year. Nancy is a practicing artist whose work represents the flora and fauna of Texas. She is interested in the power of art to build interest in the natural world and in teaching nature journaling. She is also interested in water issues, native landscaping, and pollinators. Other interests include kayaking, gardening, hiking, and travel. Nancy and her husband live in Hunt and have three grown children: two daughters and a son.



Rae Tucker was born in California and moved to Texas when her father began a space industry job in Houston. She grew up there, going on family camping trips and watching her mom volunteer at the Armand Bayou Nature Center. In school at Trinity University she interned with the City of San Antonio and never looked back. She just retired after a 35-year career in municipal government, most of which was in the COSA Parks and Recreation Department. Although she enjoyed the challenge of providing great public services with limited resources, she is looking forward to moving from behind a desk and into the outdoors. Rae lives in Boerne, has two daughters, and is excited to be a new first-time grandma.

Rebecca Laird was born in Baytown. Her father was a Navy pilot so they moved around every three years. To this day, every so often, she feels like it is time to relocate. She and her husband have lived in Kerrville since 1994, so you can see that he does not feel the same way. Rebecca graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in Psychology and minor in Sociology and worked as a caseworker in a private counseling center in College Station. Her husband wanted to go to seminary in Kentucky so they moved there and since then she has worked as a teacher in private school and as a cashier; she retired as a pharmacy technician. Rebecca has always loved the outdoors and is interested in learning more about native plants and animals.



Robin Hale is a native Texan, born in Dallas. She spent her early years in Colorado and California before moving back to Texas at age nine. Her family moved from Dallas to Fredericksburg during her junior year of high school and she has been in love with the Hill Country ever since. Some of her happiest times have been spent exploring the natural beauty of our area. After her career as a teacher, primarily in the elementary grades, Robin retired from KISD four years ago and now is an adjunct professor at Schreiner University, teaching future teachers how to teach reading to young students. Her hobbies include playing in a hand bell choir, reading, camping, and working in her yard.

continued on next page



Steve Ramirez lives in Boerne and has been in love with the Texas Hill Country for most of his life. He is a father and husband. His wife, Alice, is originally from Scotland; their daughter Megan, holds a master’s degree in outdoor education from the University of Edinburg, Scotland and teaches outdoor education in England. Steve’s professional career has been as a U.S. Marine, Texas Master Peace Officer, and Professor of Criminal Justice. He sees himself in the role of volunteer in the areas of habitat protection and restoration, research such as bird and butterfly counts, and date collection. The best way to define Steve is on his personal cards: “Poet-Warrior, Educator, Naturalist, Adventurer, Philosopher. No question too small; no question too vast.”

Tom Burke and his wife Cathy discovered the Hill Country while he was stationed at Brooke Army Medical Center. They bought property in Gillespie County in 2007. Tom grew up near Chicago and went to medical school at Tulane University. He served in Honolulu, Leavenworth, Washington, and San Antonio, and was recruited to MD Anderson Cancer Center where he worked as a physician and medical administrator for 30 years. He enjoyed caring for people, teaching physicians, running clinical trials, and managing hospital operations. They have three adult children. He retired “cold turkey” in 2017. He and Cathy enjoy travel, theater, movies, music, and cooking. Tom enjoys nature, biology, and working outside--so when friends suggested the TXMN program, he saw a good fit. He is interested in Monarch projects, litter control, community garden support, and student education.



Traeger Fuhrmann is a fifth generation Fredericksburg native. He grew upon the Fuhrmann Ranch, which is registered in the Texas Family Heritage Program, a recognition program that honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more. Traeger has been an operations manager for a truck equipment company and a project manager for an environmental company; currently, he is a realtor, small business owner, and co-owner of Wingman Imagery, a drone, video production, and photography company based in Fredericksburg. During his time off Traeger enjoys visiting with friends, hunting, fishing, and traveling; he plans on being scuba certified by the end of the year. He is looking forward to many Master Naturalist projects.

Travis Linscomb is a native Texan who was born in Nederland. He spent half of his childhood in the piney woods near Mauriceville and the other half near the Llano River, north of Junction. He earned his B.S. in Wildlife Management from Tarleton State University and has been working in the field of aquatic science for over 10 years. As the Natural Resources Technician for the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, Travis performs water quality monitoring, outreach and education programs, habitat and biological assessments, and investigates surface water concerns. Travis currently lives out of the sun and rain on his family’s ranch near Medina. He enjoys being a good steward of God’s precious creation, pickin’ on his mandolin, and being a nature nerd with his girlfriend.



Wendi Leonard was born in Bloomington, Indiana but was raised in Houston. She received degrees in Zoology from Texas Tech University and Nursing from UT Health Science Center – Houston, and worked as a nurse until staying home to raise her family. Wendi has lived in the Houston and San Antonio areas, where she volunteered at church and with her daughters’ scouting, school, and sports. She lives with her husband and two dogs. Her daughter Emily is a junior at St. Edwards University and her daughter Katie is a freshman at Colorado State. Wendi enjoys nature and the outdoors and loves learning about native plants and animals. She is excited to gain knowledge and give back to her local area.

Zack Burkhart was born in Rochester, Minnesota in 1980 and moved to San Antonio at age one after his father finished residency in orthopedic surgery. He grew up there and attended Churchill High School, where he met his future wife, Jennifer. They were married after college and have three young children. Zack attended The University of Notre Dame and then entered medical school at U.T. Southwestern. He completed five years of training in ophthalmology before moving back to San Antonio, where he practiced full-time for five years. Currently, Zach works part-time as an ophthalmologist and part-time for his family’s investment organization. This involves Hill Country land management, and he is excited to grow in land stewardship knowledge through the Master Naturalist Program.



The View from Rusty Bend

Barbed Remarks from the Shrike's Mate



Loggerhead Shrike

Image by Ken Butler

*You humans have your point of view:
you see that black/white flash,
stain it with the macabre.
You see medieval heads on pikes,
a thorny tree of pain; call him Butcher Bird.*

Don't taint my mate with your war metaphor.

*I see handsome Zorro,
hovering
with his mask and cape of grey,
dapper pleated handkerchiefs
tucked in his wings.*

*Within the cage of his ribs
beats the heart of an eagle.
His toothed beak
totes lizard beetle chickadee wasp
to our spiny home.*

*Hanging meat to cure to rawhide,
those dried kabobs get us through droughts,
feed us in the cold.
You see horror. You see gruesome.
I see my brave Thornbird.*

I see my pantry, well-stocked.

August at Rusty Bend has its challenges in a very dry year. We study what is different to see what we can learn. Andy and I wake up in the dark and sit on the porch with our coffee, play a new game called “What’s that?!”

The Guadalupe River below us is a super-concentrate of wildlife, the Times Square of Kendall County. All the tanks and creeks are dry, so pools in the river remain the only place to drink. Strange sounds on the water bloom into questions. Is that howl/scream a fox or a big racoon? Or an encounter between them? That raspy croak? A Great Blue Heron? Or a raven? The intersection of species is wild with barking, yipping, yelping, shrieking.

Just before dawn, a favorite sight is the bats from the Old Tunnel sipping dew from the edge of the tin roof. Picture it! Such welcome bug eaters. At daylight, we see a large group of ravens descend on the neighbor’s field, pouncing on grasshoppers like a crowd at a crawfish boil. A parliament of ravens, cooperating for the greater good.

What color there is in the pasture is also concentrated in just a few forbs: Two-leaf Senna, Navajo Tea, fragrant Cenizo, and tiny cream-colored candelabras on the Kidneywood. Multiple species of honey bees and bumblebees mob the lavender blossoms of Cenizo. The Barometer Bush sparkles with a multi-octave concentrate of their hums.

continued on next page

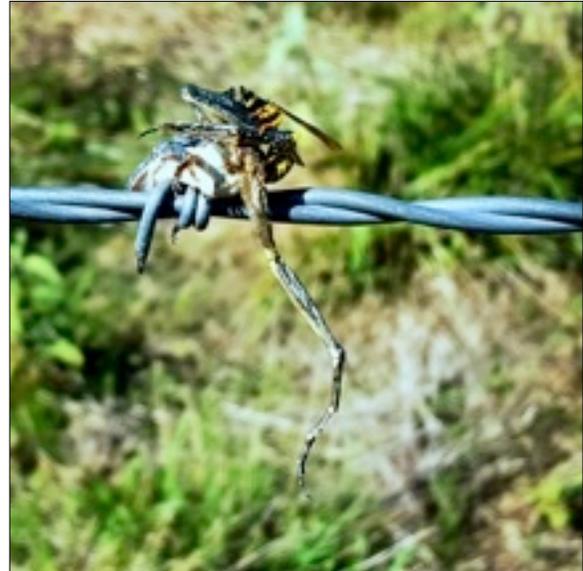
Work time is concentrated in the morning. I have a list of indoor and outdoor chores. The outdoor ones have to be done by 10 or I'm a puddle. Andy calls them "three-shirt days."

There is research that heat creates a mind-numbing torpor. My rhyme for it is: Too hot for naught but simple thought. It can get you down. Then again, I'll be on the porch before sunup and see the shadows of two foxes leaping in the yard, I hold my breath and the scene is arched by a shooting star. Suddenly, all is well, a hard reboot on my attitude.

In the meantime, I'm doing what I can, boning up on my rain dances. I'll concentrate on that.

Poem, second 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



Lizard/wasp brunch buffet



ADVANCED TRAINING

TUESDAY, SEPT. 11 1:30-2:30PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE

AT18-238 WILDFLOWERS OF TEXAS

Michael Eason, freelance botanist and author will speak on the "Wildflowers of Texas" at the first meeting of the year of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter. Copies of his book will be available for sale for \$25 (cash or check). For further information, contact Sandra Haldeman at shaldeman@sbcglobal.net.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12 11-1PM WEBINAR

AT18-226 THE IN'S AND OUT'S OF LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS IN TEXAS

Shane Kiefer will provide an overview of programs that provide funding or assistance for conservation and habitat management projects on your land with a focus on the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) and Pastures for Upland Birds (PUB). Webinar Website - <https://plateauwildlife.webex.com/> . Contact Shane Kiefer at skiefer@plateauwildlife.com. for further information.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12 1-2PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE

AT18-159 VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM 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 after class for some extended instruction in VMS. The instructor is Brenda Fest; contact her at brendafest@gmail.com for further information.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 14 9AM-12PM CIBOLO NATURE CENTER AND FARM, BOERNE

AT18-232 OUTDOOR CLASSROOM EDUCATOR VOLUNTEER 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. Go to Registration:education@cibolo.org to register. For further information, contact Shasha McCracken at education@cibolo.org or 830.249.4616.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 15 9:30--11AM SCHREINER UNIVERSITY, LOFTIS FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER, KERRVILLE

AT18-248 BIRDS OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Field Biologist Chris Distel will discuss native bird diversity as well as observation and identification techniques. You will then make guided observations and identify birds in nature. For further information and to register, go to <https://clubed.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassListing.ClassListingDisplay&> .

SATURDAY, SEPT. 22 10-12AM LADY BIRD JOHNSON MUNICIPAL PARK, FREDERICKSBURG

AT18-246 SNAKE ID AND SAFETY

Kory Perlachek, TPWD Biologist, will speak on how to identify and safely coexist with snakes found in the Texas hill country. Parents and children are invited to attend. After the presentation, we will be "Makin Snakes," a fun hands-on activity. Suggested donation is \$10 for adults; children are free. Limited to 50 participants; to register, contact Sharon Rodriguez at 830-997-4399.

MONDAY, SEPT. 24 6:45-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY, KERRVILLE

AT18-243 TEXAS CATS

Monica Morrison will discuss Texas' wide diversity of wild cats. Texas is home to five species, three of which are endangered, and can claim more wild feline species than any other state.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 25 11AM-12PM WEBINAR

AT18-245 RANGELAND ANALYSIS PLATFORM

The Rangeland Analysis Platform (RAP) is a free, online tool that helps landowners and natural resource managers track vegetation through time and plan actions to improve America's grazing lands. For further information, contact Candy Thomas at candy.thomas@ks.usda.gov .Webinar Website: <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>

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

Chris Anderson's presentation features photos and information on many of the unique plants found around and on the striking granite domes at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. For further information, contact Diana Armbrust at dianaarmbrust@yahoo.com.

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

Jim Stanley will discuss grass identification.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26 12-1PM WEBINAR**AT18-227 AN INTRODUCTION TO BIRDING 101**

Mark Gray will discuss choosing and using binoculars, bird identification basics, and the how, where, and when to choose the best birding locations. Contact Mark Gray at mgray@plateauwildlife.com for further information. Webinar Website: <https://plateauwildlife.webex.com>.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27 12-1PM WEBINAR**AT18-237 WHAT'S BUGGING YOUR TREES?**

David Coyle will discuss identification and management of native and invasive insect and fungal pests of trees in urban landscapes in the Southeast. Common as well as likely-soon-to-be-here pests will be addressed. Webinar Website -<http://www.forestrywebinars.net/>.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 29 8:30AM-4:30PM CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC CO-OP, FREDERICKSBURG**AT18-235 NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: LEVEL 3**

Chris Anderson and Valerie Fishell will discuss the installation and maintenance of native landscapes. For more, contact Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, at meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512-589-1316. For location and class specific questions, contact Chris Anderson, NLCP Host Chapter Program Manager, at sligo.canine@gmail.com, or 830-998-8559.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11 6-7:30PM DIETERT CENTER, KERRVILLE**AT18-250 COLLECTING RAINWATER IN THE HILL COUNTRY**

Barry Wall will discuss how collecting rainwater and solar can benefit you and the environment. The class is designed to help you understand how both rainwater and solar can be installed at your home and its benefits; also to debunk misinformation regarding both systems. Tuition is \$21; refreshments are provided. For information and registration, go to <https://clubed.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassListing.ClassListingDisplay&>.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17 5:30-6:30PM DIETERT CENTER, KERRVILLE**AT18-249 FOSSILS CONNECT THE PAST TO THE PRESENT**

Michael McGinis will discuss how fossils are studied and some secrets that they have recently revealed. Cost \$15.00. For more information and registration, go to https://clubed.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassInfo.ClassInformation&int_class_id=48582&int_category_id=0&int_sub_category_id=0&int_catalog_id=0.

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 6:45 PM in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

Join us at 6:15 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

David Davies -- Communications Director

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:

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

